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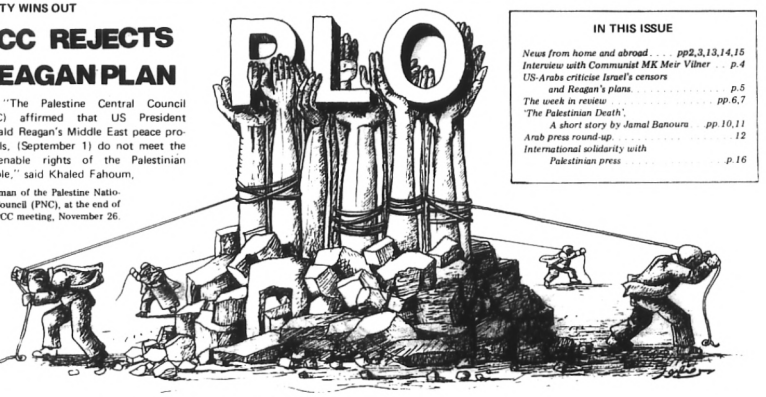
UNITY WINS OUT

PCC REJECTS REAGAN PLAN

"The Palestine Central Council (PCC) affirmed that US President Ronald Reagan's Middle East peace proposals, (September 1) do not meet the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people," said Khaled Fahoum, chairman of the Palestine National Council (PNC), at the end of the PCC meeting, November 26.



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The nine-hour meeting held in Damascus gave the lie to rumours circulated, particularly in the West, about Palestinian disunity and consequent inability to convene the meeting. It also put an end to the allegations about differences between Yasir Arafat, PLO chairman, and the Syrian leadership when Ahmad Zu'bi, chairman of the Syrian parliament, stated, November 27, that there is constant coordination between the two sides regarding the PLO's relations with Jordan and other issues.

The PCC meeting had earlier discussed a wide range of topics relating to the current Palestinian situation. In a Radio Monte Carlo interview, Khalil Wazir (Abu Jihad), Fatah Central Committee member, said that "the meeting was characterised by democratic dialogue." During the meeting, reports said, Yasir Arafat and Farouq Kaddoumi, head of the PLO political department, submitted reports concerning their discussions with Arab and international delegations since the previous PCC meeting.

At the end of the meeting, Khaled Fahoum released the final statement to the press. The statement explained the reasons behind the Palestinians' rejection of Reagan's plan. "It ignores the right to self-determination and to set up an independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO."

OBJECTION TO THE RETURN OF EGYPT

The council also clarified the Palestinians' reasons objecting to the return of Egypt to the Arab arena as long as it remains committed to the Camp David agreements. "Although the Palestinians highly appreciate the sacrifices of the Egyptian people, the return of Egypt's regime to the Arab forum cannot be considered before Egypt gets rid of its Camp David commitments," the PCC resolved.

A third important topic the statement contained was on Palestinian national unity. "Our national unity is the strongest shield in order to continue our struggle," the statement read. The conferees affirmed that Palestinian unity has always been a target for the enemy forces, but "through it we achieved our steadfastness in Lebanon." The council promised that all attempts to break this unity will fail.

In the same press release Fahoum announced that preparations for the next Palestine National Council conference are starting immediately.

COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION: STATEMENT "UNACCEPTABLY AMBIGUOUS"

Academics Reject Anti-PLO Pledge

The West Bank universities and the 'civil administration' seem to be heading towards renewed confrontations after academics and university administrators this week rejected the modified anti-PLO document appended to work permit applications. Meetings were held throughout the week between students, teachers, administrators and education officials. On December 1 the Council of Higher Education (CHE), a non-statutory umbrella body which supervises post-secondary education in the occupied territories, issued a statement rejecting the document.

The CHE press release called the new statement, now incorporated into work permit applications "unacceptably ambiguous and subject to a number of interpretations." Unless it is classified, CHE asserted, it must be considered a . . . "political commitment that academics cannot sign."

As a possible compromise CHE recommended that work visa applications be clearly modified in line, they say, with the authorities' own interpretation, that "this application "contains no commitment on the partof the

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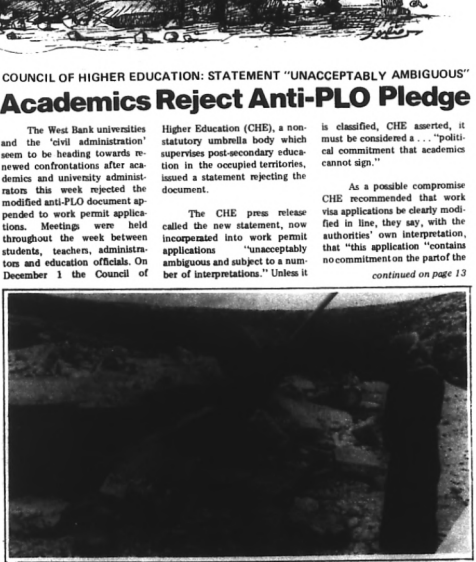

The home of Hammad Siyam, in Mukhmas, Ramallah district, destroyed by Israeli military authorities this week. /SP

Lebanese Army Loots Acca Hospital

by Livia Rokach

ROME — November 30, Lebanese army units raided the Palestinian Red Crescent medical wearhouse in Shatila camp, looting tons of medicine and equipment donated by the Italian troops of the multinational forces to serve the needs of the local population. They then proceeded to beseige Akka Hospital presently operated by Italian medical personnel attached to the force and then opened fire on a car transporting an urgent case to the first aid station at the hospital. The attacks have been condemned as an escalation of tension here and a renewed attempt to force the surviving Palestinian population to abandon the camps and Beirut against the background of the complete incapacity of the present Lebanese government to control the ambitions of rival power factions in the Lebanese army and security services.

Tension between the Lebanese army and the Italian troops charged with the protection of the civilian population in certain sectors of Sabra and Shatila began to mount on the night between Thursday and Friday, November 18 and 19, when Lebanese police broke into the home of a 30-year-old Palestinian, Abu Fuad, father of five small children. They took him away without explanation in a closed van, then shot him in the back, after being forced to stop at the Italian roadblock at the entrance of the camp. The gravely wounded man was rushed to Gaza Hospital where he died upon arrival. The Italian military command lodged a strong protest to the Lebanese government.

No further incursions by Lebanese security froces were attempted during the following week in the Italian-controlled sectors of the camps, but an entire plane-load of tons of medicine, desperately needed hospital equipment and other medical material donated to the Palestinian population of Beirut by the Piemonte Regional Solidarity Committee was expropriated at Beirut airport by the Lebanese authorities.

Last Saturday, November 27, at 9:30 am, a Lebanese army unit commanded by an officer who presented himself as Captain Najjar broke into the Palestinian Red Crescent medical stores situated in the French-controlled area of Shatila, looted hundreds of boxes containing antibiotics and other medicines donated to the camp population by Italian forces, loaded them onto two trucks and departed promising "to come back and take the rest some other day."

In view of the French refusal to intervene in any way the Palestinians went over to the Italian command who immediately protested to the Lebanese army headquarters, requesting the restitution of the medicines. Somewhat later a Lebanese senior army officer arrived announcing the opening of an investigation, but on Sunday morning Captain Najjar and his men returned with three trucks, looted the remaining medicines and all the medical equipment and arrested three women workers of the Red Crescent who tried to stop them. "From now on, medicines are only for the Lebanese. There will be no medicine for Palestinians. The Palestinians have to go away from Lebanon," Captain Najjar reportedly shouted at people, desperately trying to dissuade the soldiers from carrying away the goods.

Informed of the new raid which again provoked no intervention on the part of the French paratroopers controlling the sector, the Italian command once more protested to the authority concerned, obtaining the immediate release of the Red Crescent workers but not of the medicines. However, evidently in reprisal for the protest on Monday morning, Lebanese troops surrounded Akka Hospital where the surgery department had just been repaired by the Italian forces and inaugurated, pretending to control incoming patients. An exchange of fire followed resulting in a retreat of the Lebanese and in the dismantling of their roadblock. Tension however remained very high, among both Italian military and medical personnel who are determined to obtain the looted material and who are profoundly irritated by the Lebanese resentment towards the wide popularity of the Italians on the human level with the Palestinian population. One of the Red Crescent workers, arrested and then released, told an Italian journalist, "I told them that we never made any distinction between Palestinians and Lebanese. Our hospitals, our medicines have always been at the disposal of all those who needed them, but the Captain just laughed in my face. You can be sure it is clear that they want to harass and frighten us into going away."

The incidents have given rise to a wave of indignation in Italy where, despite the government crisis underway, press is delegating ample space to such events. The Piemonte Regional Council has protested to the Lebanese government about the expropriation of the medicine and equipment collected by the solidarity committee. One of the very first issues the upcoming new government in Rome will have to face will be the formal request made, November 30, by President Amin Gemayel for the doubling of the Italian as well as French and American military presence in Lebanon.

Under present conditions and with plans for the expulsion of Palestinians in Lebanon again aired in the Lebanese press, the request is likely to meet with considerable opposition in the Italian Parliament and public opinon. It is also becoming evident that, unable to exercise any control whatsoever on competing Maronite factions in the army, security services and Phalangist militia, all of whom challenge his authority, President Gemayel may soon find himself exclusively leaning on the foreign Western army which may on their terms get more involved in violent conflict in Lebanon. It is doubtful that Italian public opinion is ready to support such a prospect.

RAKAH MK ALLEGES

14 Tortured To Death In Israeli Prison

"MK Tawfiq Toubi presented an emergency request to the Israeli Knesset to conduct an immediate investigation regarding the information which has reached the Democratic Front (For Peace and Equality) about crimes committed against Palestinian prisoners in Megiddo prison which resulted in the death of 14 prisoners in the span of one month.

Toubi also told the Knesset that many have gone mad after witnessing the torture of fellow prisoners.

In his request Toubi said, "We have confirmed infonnation that thousands of prisoners have disappeared with their whereabouts unknown. These suffer the worst kinds of torture, thirst and cold-blooded murder." Toubi gave an example of the torture saying. "One prisoner dared to take a sip of water after water was kept away from him for a week. When the soldiers caught him drinking water, two of them held him while a third brought a water pipe which was inserted through his mouth to his stomach. The water faucet was turned on and he lost consciousness and died." (Translation. Al Ittihad, November 30 1982)

Walid Jumblatt, head of the Lebanese National Movement, and leader of the Progressive Socialist Party was slightly injured in a car bomb blast, in west Beirut, December 1. Four people were killed, and 37 others were injured, in addition to Jumblatt and his wife in the incident. He was tranferred to the American University Hospital where he was released in good condition.

HIGH COURT:

Sharon Must Say How Ansar Is Legal

An order *nisi* was issued at the High Court of Justice in Jerusalem, November 30, against the Israeli Defence Minister, Ariel Sharon, demanding an explanation within 60 days of the legal basis on which prisoners at Ansar detention camp, Lebanon, are held and why lawyers cannot visit them.

Lawyer Lea Tsemel, who brought the case of the Palestinian prisoners in Lebanon to the court, demanded in the course of the High Court hearing that the court order Sharon to open the detention camp to lawyers in order to enable the prisoners to appeal against their detention. She also demanded that the Geneva Convention relating to prisoners-of-war be applied since Israel signed, and recognises it.

The government's advocate claimed that the estimated 5-6,000 held at Ansar are not prisoners of war and that the Geneva Convention is not part of the domestic law of Israel, and that "nobody can force Israel to incorporate (the Geneva Conventions) into the Israeli law. Lea Tsemel said in court that Ansar prisoners are held in "terrible conditions" which have been reported in Israeli newspapers. The government lawyer had claimed that the prisoners "were provided with everything."

Regarding the prosecutor's claim that the released prisoners appear before a committee, similar to that mentioned in the Geneva Convention, Tsemel said that the committee had been set up just a few days before the hearing of the case.

Tsemel also questioned why families of prisoners are not allowed visits nor given economic support.

Partition Day Brings Out Protestors & Military

West Bank and Gaza residents commemorated the 35th anniversary of the UN Partition Plan, November 29, now marked as International Solidarity Day with the Palestinian People. Des-

November 29 has been declared an international day of solidarity by the UN since 1978.

Hebron Polytechnic held a two-hour festival inside the campus where student and faculty representatives spoke to 700 assembled students about the parition decision and its political results. Soldiers stood outside but did not interfere.

Tireh

In Tireh, the women's teachers' college run by UNRWA was closed after Israeli border patrollers moved onto the campus, dispersed the demonstrators

College sources told *Al Fajr* that they have been told that their institute is closed until further notice.

At Bethlehem University, Israeli authorities stayed off campus and the students were able to conduct their scheduled program without problems. Nidal Abu Zuluf, secretary of the student council, told *Al Fajr* that a rally held to mark the day

included talks about the partition order and the international solidarity day.

topics discussed during the rally were the political victories of the Palestinian revolution and the new undertaking that foreign faculty have to sign.

The Jerusalem Post reported that a bus carrying school children from one of the West Bank's settlements was stoned near Ofra settlement in the vicinity of Ain Yabroud. The *Post* noted that some of the windows of the bus were damaged but there were no injuries.

In Gaza, Israeli soldiers forced merchants to open their shops and rounded up many youths for demonstrating and throwing stones.

International Solidarity

PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat received a number of telegrammes, and massages from Arab and international organisations, expressing solidarity with the Palestinian people. Among the messages received, one was from the Yemenite Council for Peace and Solidarity, and the International Union of Arab Workers. He also received messages from a number of Arab and world leaders, all of whom expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people. Meanwhile, several festivals were held in various Arab and European capitals where solidarity speeches were read to commemorate the day. At the United Nations, Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar said in a statement read to journalists on the occasion, that it is time to find a just solution to the Palestinian problem, on the basis of recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

(Translation from Al Fajr, Al Shaab, December 2, 1982)

DUDEEN WASHINGTON – BOUND

After Sharon---Hussein Says League King

The head of the so-called Federation of Village Leagues, Mustafa Dudeen, announced November 29 that he will attempt to meet Jordan's King Hussein during their simultaneous visits to Washington next week, *The Jerusalem Post* reported November 30.

Dudeen timed his visit to the US capital, by invitation from a delegation of Congressmen who visited the area several weeks ago, with Hussein's long-scheduled meeting with US President Reagan. The anti-nationalist Leagues, more structure than substance, may attempt to pursue its favour with the king to spearhead a move toward confederation from the West Bank.

On the eve of his departure, the head of the three-year old Israeli-backed Village Leagues consulted with Israel Defence Minister Ariel Sharon at the Knesset. Dudeen denied, in an interview with the Israeli Arabic language daily *Al Anba'* November 30, that his meeting with Sharon dealt with political matters. He claimed that he appealed to Sharon to grant reunions for Palestinian residents and to approve other requests for social cases. Sharon, however, told reporters after the reported meeting that he envisages the Village Leagues as "possible partners in the autonomy talks."

Israel Radio reported, November 29, that Dudeen has been engaged in contacts with Jordanian officials in order to reconcile their positions. Publicly, Jordan's relations with Dudeen, former Jordanian minister during the Wasfi Tel government, soured in March of this year after the Jordanian government issued a declaration outlawing the Leagues and threatening to charge its members with treason, unless they withdrew their membership within a month. The order, issued by Jordan's Prime Minister Muder Badran, was never implemented. League members regularly visit Amman and return to the West Bank without incident. Dudeen told *Al Anba'* that he renewed his Jordanian passport long after the military order was issued, without problem.

Throughout the past eight months, Dudeen has maintained that his close relationship with King Hussein is still intact. He has been cautious against making any statements critical of the king which might isolate him from future "peace negotiations" under Jordanian sponsorship. In his *Al Anba'* interview Dudeen boasted that the Leagues' slogans of "anti-communism, anti-terrorism and pro-peace" are in harmony with those of Jordan. Dudeen, in the name of the Leagues, announced support for Reagan's September 1 peace proposals linking the West Bank with the Hashemite Kingdom, and gave his blessing to a strong Jordanian role in any future peace negotiations.

RELIGIOUS PEOPLE OFF THE ANTI-PLO HOOK

The 'civil administration' for the West Bank announced, November 29, that they are dropping plans to force religious visa holders to sign an anti-PLO statement as a condition for renewal of residency permits. The proposal, published in the Israeli press two weeks ago, drew immediate criticism from religious bodies both here and abroad.

A source in Bethlehem University, where most foreign lecturers hold religious visas, told *Al Fajr* that as they had not been formally presented with the issue they had not made any official decision concerning it.

Fanatics in East Jerusalem

With no police interference, over 15 members of the Israeli ultra-right wing Kach movement held a two-hour sit-in strike at the East Jerusalem Office of the International Committee of the Red Cross, December 1. The protestors demanded the release of Syrian Jews and Israeli prisoners of war.

The Kach demonstrators (the Jewish Defence League in Israel) passed out a statement to the public criticising the Red Cross for their "one-sided pressure on Israel to release the PLO terrorists and Syrian POWs captured in operation Shalom Hagalil." The declaration claimed that Syrian Jews have been captives for "over three centuries facing persecution unknown since the time of Hitler."

The fanatics, who openly call for the mass expulsion of Palestinians, demanded that the Red Cross "initiate negotations and stand as the mediator between both (Syrian and Israeli) governments to discuss the exchange of the close to 400 Syrian POWs for the handful of Israeli POWs and Syrian Jews."

According to their statement the Kach supporters declared that they would not leave peacefully until given a direct line with the ICRC headquarters in Geneva but later left short of their demand.

AFTER CUTTING ELECTRICITY

Israel Threatens Hebron With Drought

The Israeli Water Company Mekorot notified Hebron municipality, November 24, that water supplies would be cut off unless they paid overdue bills, totalling IS3 Million.

Acting mayor Mustafa Natshe told *Al Fajr* that the municipality paid one-third of the amount on November 25, but that the new military-appointed Dura municipality refuses to pay the Hebron municipality its bills of one million. Natshe believes that the Israeli authorities instruct their protogees in the nearby Dura municipality not to pay the Hebron water bills in order to create a pretext to dismiss him from office.

Hebron municipality began receiving water supplies from Mekorot in 1974 because the output of the municipal water wells in Fawar were insufficient for the needs of the entire Hebron area which includes 120 villages. At the time Sheikh Mohammad Ali Ja'abari was mayor.

In 1978, Hebron mayor Fahd Qawasme, now expelled, applied to the Israeli authorities for permission to dig new wells which would free the municipality from control of Mekorot. The Israeli authorities informed the municipality that they must first make a geological study, and locate the exact area for the digging. When the study was completed, the Israelis forbade the municipality from proceeding with the digging. The geological study cost Hebron residents JD20,000

Acting mayor Natshe told *Al Fajr* that it was the first time that Mekorot threatened to cut off the city's water supplies. It could give the false impression, said Natshe, that the municipal council is not carrying out its job, and then the military authorities would use that as a pretext to dissolve it, as it has done with nine other elected municipalities in the occupied territories this year.

Last month, the Israeli Electric Company cut off power to the city for four hours because of similar reasons. Natshe said that the municipality had repeatedly tried to buy new electricity generators, in order to reactivate the city's power station but each time the Israeli authorities had refused permission for the purchase. The power station was closed down in 1974, after Israel's initial refusal to allow the municipality to buy new generators.

Mohammad Nasser, newly appointed head of the Hebron branch of the Israeli-backed Village League, also works as a consultant to the electricity department at the West Bank military headquarters in Beit El.

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UNITY IS THE ONLY GUIDELINE

Foreign faculty members teaching at Palestinian universities in the occupied territories were unanimous this week in refusing to sign any document condemning or denying support for the PLO. Students at three West Bank universities elected national unity blocs for their new councils, defeating all anti-PLO elements.

The Palestinian Central Council met this week and discussed freely and democratically all issues relating to the Palestinian question. An important point which the PCC dealt with and agreed to unanimously was Palestinian national unity.

The Israeli invasion of Lebanon had a straightforward aim: to crush the PLO. When Israel failed, its allies volunteered to help in the strategy of divide and rule. The US Arab reactionary puppets were moved into place. All possible means were used to open a crack in the PLO: allegations of differences, false statements attributed to one faction against another, and alleged total embracement of certain leaders. But to the misfortune of the puppeteers, the PLO is still sole and intact.

The aggression against the Palestinian people inside and outside Palestine, to divide them in order to politically subjugate them, also failed. Every occasion for democratic elections among Palestinians proves that Palestinian national consensus is unified behind the PLO.

Palestinians everywhere have learned that their unity is an unpenetrable tower. Unity, especially in the face of the most powerful countervailing forces, is a guiding light towards achieving their inalienable rights.

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MK MEIR VILNER:
Arafat For Comprehensive Peace

Meir Vilner, 64, has been the General Secretary of the Israeli Communist Party, since 1965. He is also a member of the Israeli Knesset, representing the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (a Communist Party-led coalition).

Vilner visited the Soviet Union between November 14 and 18 to attend the funeral of Leonid Brezhnev. During his stay, he met with PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat, and his delegation. He also held lengthy talks with the Soviet Union Communist Party Central Committee, and discussed various issues relating to the Palestinian question.

Al Fajr visited MK Vilner in his Knesset office this week. Following are excerpts of the interview with him.

by Sami Al-Aboudi

Q: Was your meeting with PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat the first meeting between the Communist Party and the PLO?

A: No, we had several meetings with high-level PLO delegations during the past few years. I remember one meeting attended by two members from our politburo, Emile Tuma, and Uri Banstein, which took place in Prague a few years ago. We published news of it in *Al Ittihad*, the Party's Arabic language organ and as I recall there was a joint statement. This, however, is my first meeting with Arafat.

Q: What did you discuss in the meeting?

A: Arafat and I first met each other after Brezhnev's funeral, where we recognised and embraced each other. We then agreed to hold lengthy talks. The following day, I met with the PLO delegation which consisted of Yasir Abed Rabbo, Mahmoud Abbas, and the PLO representative in Moscow, Ibrahim al-Sha'er, in addition to the PLO chairman. We talked about various subjects, mainly dealing with the popular anti-war movements in Israel, and the prospects of peace in the Middle East. Arafat also outlined the PLO's stand on the Palestinian question.

Q: During your talks with the Palestinian leader, did you discover a common ground between the Communist Party and the PLO?

A: My impression is that Yasir Arafat favours a comprehensive, just and stable solution to the Israeli-Arab conflict on the basis of establishing an independent Palestinian state. We, on our part carry the same principles.

If I was in Begin's place, peace would be achieved in less than 24 hours.

Q: How would you do that?

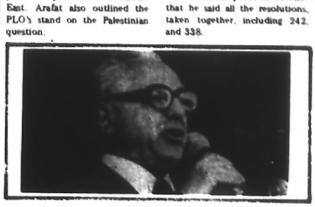
A: I would meet Arafat anywhere, in Beirut, or Damascus, or Jerusalem. All those are technical problems which would not stand in front of us. The important thing is the principle of achieving peace.

Q: How do you compare your meeting with Arafat with Uri Avneri's? If you remember, Avneri's visit to Beirut was criticised by Israeli politicians, and even some of them demanded that he be tried.

A: Well, Avneri met Arafat as a journalist but I met with him to dicuss political issues. On the second part of your question, if you meant that the Israeli policies forbid meeting with the PLO, I don't care about the Israeli policies. In fact I think the Israeli policy should be forbidden.

Q: You are quoted as saying that Arafat told you he is ready to recognise UN Security Council Resolutions 242, and 338, what exactly did Arafat say on these issues?

A: Not exactly. Arafat declared that "the PLO has accepted all UN (Security Council, and General Assembly) resolutions regarding the Palestinian problem." Notice that he said all the resolutions, taken together, including 242, and 338.



Q: And what do you think about that?

A: I think that the realistic solution is to return to pre-1967 borders, and the creation of an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank including Arab Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. This will be a big achievement for the Palestinian people.

Q: What is your Party's position on Reagan's September 1 initiative?

A: We think that the Reagan plan falls short of the Palestinian demands. First of all, the plan does not speak of the creation of an independent Palestinian state, which the PLO stands for. Secondly, it presumes the annexation of some territory to Israel since it does not talk about total withdrawal from all the occupied territories. And thirdly, it does not address the PLO which we recognise as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Q: How do you assess Palestinian-Jordanian relations, after Arafat's visit to Jordan?

A: I believe that this matter is up to the Palestinian people, and their representative, the PLO, to decide on. Nobody should impose anything on the organisation, or speak on its behalf without its consent.

Vilner:

"If I was in Begin's place peace would be achieved in less than 24 hours"

Q: What is the Soviet Union's leadership's present position on the question of a solution to the Palestinian problem?

A: The Israeli Communist Party delegation and I held lengthy discussion with the USSR Communist Party Central Committee the day after the funeral. We were told that the USSR continues to stick to Brezhnev's six point peace programme, which was outlined several months ago. In general the programme calls for the withdrawal of Israel from all the occupied territories, the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and the right of all Middle East states, including Israel, to live in peace.

Q: Is the USSR going to present a peace initiative for the Middle East?

A: My impression is that they will introduce one, but I can't say when. However, they will put in efforts to end the occupation of Lebanon.

Q: Some people say that the USSR did nothing to help the Palestinians during the war in Lebanon.

A: This is not true. If it wasn't for the Soviet Union, the PLO wouldn't have been able to fight the aggression. The Soviet Union has provided the PLO and Syria with weapons, in addition to political support. What more could the Soviet Union do? We think that if there is hope for the Palestinian cause to prevail, it can be achieved through cooperation with the Soviet Union, and other socialist countries, and world revolutionary forces.

OPINION

THE ALMOST PERFECT CENSORSHIP

By Mitchell Kaidy

Reprinted from Democrat and Chronicle, Rochester, New York

From the beginning of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the management of world opinion played a pivotal role. Along with the storm of bombers and columns of American-made tanks moved the censors.

American and other correspondents were faced with signing a pledge of compliance with military censorship or being expelled from the battle zone. On the TV screens of millions of Americans, the evidence of the censors' efforts became familiar in the caption "Cleared by Israeli Censors."

Those and other facts were overlooked or omitted in Rabbi Judea Miller's *Democrat and Chronicle* article, "Israel Savaged by the Media" (October 13). The full extent of censor penetration into objective reportage has yet to be catalogued.

But as the scope of the carnage grew, so did the reports in the printed and broadcast media. During this period, foreign and American journalists were harassed by Israeli censors, who actually tried to influence their coverage, as the *Washington Journalism Review* and other professional publications have charged.

Ultimately, what undid the Israeli news management campaign was not its ineffectiveness but the absence of censorship by other principal combatants. At no time did the PLO fighters or the Lebanese government attempt to impose censorship during or after the invasion. The Syrians did, but required no signed affidavits to enforce it.

The most widely publicized casualty estimates – 35,000 killed or wounded, 600,000 homeless – were not drawn from Arab sources at all but from such organizations as the International Red Cross, CARITAS, the Catholic Relief Organization, and the American Friends Service Committee (Quakers), occasionally illuminated by survivors' accounts. What was remarkable about all these estimates was their proximity to one another.

Israel's initial loss of credibility involved its decision to keep driving past its publicly-stated objective of a 25-mile buffer zone against expected Palestinian depredations. In many parts of the world, the printed and broadcast media responded with severe condemnation. When Israel again violated its week-old agreement not to invade West Beirut in return for the evacuation of the PLO, the worldwide press opened up with excoriations of Prime Minister Begin and Defense Minister Sharon.

Another major erosion of credibility was ensured when the media learned that not only had the official Israeli casualty estimates omitted the Palestinians, but had been confined to a small sector of Southern Lebanon. After describing the death and desolation in Southern Lebanon, Robert Fisk of the *London Times* wrote: "They (the Israelis) claimed that the Red Cross exaggerated the figures, that foreign doctors were biased, that UN troops in Southern Lebanon had lied about restrictions on medical relief, that the Western press were victims of the 'very well-oiled PLO propaganda machine.'"

The American press – traditionally the world's most supportive of Israel – was shaken not only by all these misrepresentations, but by the indiscriminate character of the bombing. In the *Village Voice*, Alexander Cockburn reproduced an internal *New York Times* memo from Thomas Friedman, *Times* reporter in Lebanon, protesting the decision from his head of the word "indiscriminate" in describing the bombing of schools, churches, hospitals, and other places outside PLO residency.

Were Friedman and David Shipler of the *Times*, Bob Simon of CBS and Stephen Mallory of NBC, Trudy Rubin of *The Christian Science Monitor*, and others of like stature all "young reporters" prone to exaggerate the casualty figures? That was Miller's contention in his article. In fact, the named reporters, plus such critical commentators as Joseph C. Harsch, Mary McGrory, Anthony Lewis, Richard Cohen, as well as John Chancellor of NBC and Bill Moyers of CBS, are all experienced journalists of peerless credentials.

When the massacres in the Palestinian camps followed Israel's repeated violations, American press coverage was tardier and less accurate than the foreign press. As late as two weeks ago, a few days before the American-backed Lebanese government estimated that as many as 1,500 Lebanese and Palestinian civilians had been encountered in the refugee camps, David Shipler reported in the Times that Israel was investigating the assassination of "several hundred" people.

If during the carnage any illumination was shed as to who the Palestinians were and what their grievances were, it seemed to have been an accidental by-product of the daily news reports. Rarely has the American press enlightened its public about such crucial issues as the Palestinians' right to return home or be compensated for lost homes and lands; their right to determine their own destiny, and their right to fight back to reclaim their lost lands. All of these are guaranteed under the UN charter.

And it remains a commentary on Western press coverage that to this day Israel censorship prevents correspondents from fully reporting on military violence against civilians in the West Bank and Gaza, as Amnesty International has documented.

Yet, undeniably, Israel's image has suffered gravely from the Lebanon invasion, which has isolated it further from world public opinion. Most important was the loss of the special immunity from criticism it had enjoyed in the American media. As Joseph C. Harsch observed in *The Christian Science Monitor*, "One effect has been to destroy Israel's sacrosanct status in American journalism." That special immunity is gone.

THE REAGAN MIDDLE EAST PEACE INITIATIVE

Excerpted from an opinion by Naseer Aruri

Concerning Israel's colonial settlements established in the West Bank and Gaza after 1967, in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, the Reagan plan reveals less ambiguity than Camp David. The controversy which had arisen under Camp David centered on the question of whether the freeze on new settlements was only applicable during the three months of negotiations for an Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, as Israel alleged, or during the entire transition period while the projected "self-governing authority" was under discussion as the United States argued.

The Reagan speech resolved this controversy by stating that the "United States will not support the use of any additional land for the purpose of settlements during the transition period." The plan, however, failed to address the crucial question of legality, particularly in light of the fact that Reagan himself had previously stated that those settlements were "not illegal," a double negative which earned him high marks from Menachem Begin. Nor does the plan insure that Israel will slow down the process of colonization of the West Bank either during or after the transition period. For nothing in that plan would stop Israel from expanding existing settlements or from acquiring new land during the transition process ostensibly to set up "army camps" or engage in "excavation." Moreover, eminent domain and security have already proved their effectiveness as convenient tools in this process.

As for the status of existing settlements beyond the transition period, Mr Reagan was absolutely clear: "We will oppose dismantlement of the existing settlements," but "we will not support their continuation as extra-territorial outposts." This equivocation by Reagan on a vital aspect of the Palestine-Israel conflict is bound to make Begin feel vindicated in his determination not to countenance further dismantling of settlements after withdrawal from the Sinai. Begin's and Sharon's responses at that time condoned the Yamit affair as an aberration. Sharon said:

> In Sinai, in Yamit, we have reached the limits of our concessions.

And Begin emphasized while discussing a resolution adopted by the Knesset to that effect that:

> What happened in the Yamit salient was a one-time thing, unique in our era. It will not happen again.

In their later response to Reagan's initiative, the Israeli leadership reiterated the position that the freeze under Camp David applied only during the three months of negotiating the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, which terminated on December 17, 1978, and that Israel had no obligations beyond that date. The Cabinet stated "that commitment was carried out in full" and reaffirmed the claim that Israeli settlements will continue to be established as a "Jewish inalienable right and an integral part of our national security."

Although the Reagan plan is silent on this claim, it nevertheless gives it some credence. For Reagan has failed to rescind his double negative on the legality of these settlements or to be consistent with the provisions of international law regarding civilian settlements in territories under military occupation. In keeping with the deferral pattern, he said:

> The status of Israeli settlement must be determined in the course of the final status negotiations.

In addition to the president's assurances, the secretary of state has also emphasized that these negotiations will be "undertaken without preconditions and with no thought of imposed solutions." In fact, he drew a strange parallel between Jewish settlers in the West Bank and indigenous Palestinians living under Israeli rule since 1948:

> We support the right of Jews to live in peace on the West Bank and Gaza under the duly constituted governmental authority there – just as Arabs live in Israel.

Israel, therefore, will be expected to press its claims rather vigorously at the negotiations if and when they are held. Neither President Reagan nor Secretary of State Shultz has questioned the legality of settlements, they simply noted that settlement activities, prior to the conclusion of the negotiations might be detrimental to the peace process.

In concluding, the Reagan proposals for a "comprehensive" Middle East settlement envisage a final resolution of the Palestine problem which precludes the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to "self-determination without external interference," to "national independence and sovereignty," to "return to their homes and property," and the right to select and designate their own representatives. These elementary rights are enshrined in countless United Nations resolutions including Resolution 3236 of 22 November 1974, Resolution 181 of 29 November 1947, known generally as the "Partition Resolution," and Resolution 194 of 11 December 1948.

Most of the outstanding issues such as borders, water resources, settlements, the extent of self-government, and security have been deferred; Israel has been implicitly equipped with the ability to veto any agreement which does not accord with its own view of a proper settlement, and by doing so, the status quo, which is favorable to Israel, would be maintained. Such is the logical result of leaving those issues for "negotiations," beyond the five-year transition period.

[illegible]

[illegible]

ISRAELIS GET THE GUN

JERUSALEM — The Knesset Finance Committee endorsed a request to allow Israelis to own or carry 9mm pistols on the West Bank settlement beats.

TWO HOMES DEMOLISHED

JERUSALEM — The Israeli authorities demolished the homes of Salem Suleiman Mohammed Hamed, Khalil Ali Hamed, in the Nablus refugee camp of Balata, and Ali Ibrahim Ali Hamed, in Askar, on the West Bank Nablus road, on the grounds that they were involved in the murder of Yehuda Tubul. After a whole day's work 20 men said, the homes were demolished. After a whole day's work 20 men said, the homes were demolished.

In the village of Beitunia, Ramallah district, the Israeli authorities demolished a two storey building owned by a local citizen there. No warning was issued before the demolition. It is thought that the authorities applied this to Hamam Bani Nasif who received only positive investigation reports for six months.

November 25, 1982

PERSONAL SETTLEMENT

TEL AVIV — An Israeli settlement, was set up west of Nablus, after "private initiatives," said Israeli Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Mordechai Zippori. He said that Israel will settle all over the occupied territories, by all possible means. He said that other settlements would be established this way in the future. All Arabic sign in the settlements will be forcibly removed on subsidized land.

The head of the settlement council explained his plan to the Israeli media. It was reported that both the defence and agriculture ministries will offer all possible aid to the settlements.

NEW COLONEL CIVILIAN

TEL AVIV — Israel Radio said that Colonel Shlomo Elia, will soon be appointed head of the Israeli civil administration. It added that the colonel would start his new job by the beginning of next month. The radio noted that Colonel Elia was persuaded to resign and that Yigal Karmon, the acting-head of the civil administration, will be his deputy. Elia has served in military intelligence.

TRANSFERS

TULKARM — Thirteen political prisoners, detained in Tulkarm prison, on charges of belonging to the outlawed Communist Party of Israel, were transferred to the Ramleh prison, on Wednesday, November 24. Their families were informed of the transfer by the prison authorities.

CAMP RESIDENTS RELEASED

HEBRON — The Israeli authorities released Yunis Abdel Mohsen Abu Sneineh, resident of Dura refugee camp, in the Hebron area, after three years detained by the Shin Beit. The authorities, on Tuesday, November 2.

November 25, 1982

NEW FORMATION OF PNC

DAMASCUS — Palestinian sources, reported that the PNC General Council approved a new membership for the PNC. Many seats, with the quota for representation of the Arab Liberation Front, Palestinian Democratic Union and Palestinian groups in the Diaspora. They also decided to raise the representation of the occupied territories from 132 members to 180.

SCHOOLS DISRUPTED BY RAIN

GAZA — Classes in several schools in the Gaza Strip were disrupted as a result of torrential rains. Israeli troops were dispatched to help the stranded people.

November 26, 1982

NO RD-KIBBYA

Residents of Nablus, Ramallah and Hebron districts, complained to the authorities about the cuts of transportation that have occurred during winters. The president of Nablus Preparatory School, condemned the management of Kupath Ha-Cholem, and its members' daily trip to Nablus, because of the difficulties in travelling to the village's position in travelling to Nablus.

Destroyed home of Sabra Suleiman Khatib in Hizma north of Jerusalem. Israeli soldiers destroyed his house, November 24 because it was allegedly built without a building permit /SF

November 26, 1982

HOUSE ARREST RENEWED

JERUSALEM — The Israeli authorities, renewed the town restriction, order against, Zahira Ahmed Kamal, a woman teacher at the Girls' Teachers' Training Centre in Ramallah. This is the sixth time that this order has been renewed against her.

GAZANS RETURN

GAZA — The Gaza Strip delegation to Tunisia, returned after meeting with Secretary General of the Arab League, Chadli Klibishi, and with other officials. Two meetings were held at the league to discuss the economic situation in the occupied territories. Qatra, Iraq, sent a request, signed by the talks, Haj Hashem Ata Shamma, told Al Fajr that the meetings were successful, and that the Secretary General expressed deep concern about the war in Lebanon.

November 26, 1982

TEL AVIV — Sources in the Israeli army said that unidentified people opened fire at an Israeli vehicle east of Beirut using machine-gun light weapons. The spokesman of the Israeli army claimed that no losses or casualties were incurred.

November 26, 1982

CASHING IN ON THE STATELESS

The Jordanian Department of Passports in Amman announced a new bond of JD 200 which has been approved by the Justice Department in Amman for every West Bank resident who wants to obtain a Jordanian passport. A guarantor owning land or a merchant who lives in Jordan must sign this bond.

November 27, 1982

BZU DISCUSSES NEXT STEP

BIR ZEIT — The student movement in Bir Zeit University and the syndicate of employees held a mass meeting to discuss the recent amendment to the document of the military government.

All participants decided to reject the amendment regarding it as a new attempt to undermine the legitimacy of Palestinian representation and to obstruct the academic duties of the lecturers. A final reaction to the latest move is expected next Tuesday.

November 27, 1982

TIME OUT

PARIS — A first group of 150 Palestinian children arrived in Paris from West Beirut for a month's stay. The invitation was arranged by the France-Palestine League.

RESIGN! RESIGN!

TEL AVIV — Yitzhak Zeiger, a member of the Israeli Knesset from the ruling Likud coalition, said that the inquiry commission which is investigating the massacres in Sabra and Shatila should resign because it exceeded its legal jurisdiction when it examined political decisions of the government. Earlier, Yitzhak Zamir, the Israeli government's legal advisor asked Zeiger to stop intervening in the affairs of the inquiry commission.

November 28, 1982

NATIONALISTS WIN IN HEBRON U.

HEBRON — The National Bloc at Hebron University won election to the student council and occupied the nine seats of the council following the withdrawal of the two blocs that were supposed to participate.

FLAG RAISING

TEL AVIV — Israel Radio said that the Israeli authorities arrested three citizens from the village of Arrabeh in the Galilee on charges of hoisting Palestinian flags.

The radio said it was not the first time that Palestinian flags were raised in the village. Several citizens from the village had attacked a policeman from Sakhnin who was interrogating some suspects. The radio said that the vehicle which the policeman was driving was stoned, smashing the windscreens.

MINE INJURES ISRAELIS

TEL AVIV — An Israeli military spokesman announced that three Israeli soldiers were injured when a mine went off beneath their armoured vehicle in Bhamdoun near Beirut. He noted that the Israeli forces conducted extensive search operations looking for more mines.

The Ayn al-Mreisseh, Ramallah's main circle and popular site of student demonstrations, is being drastically altered /SF

November 28, 1982

FOUR KILLED IN SHOUF

BEIRUT – Four people were killed during an exchange of fire between Phalangist forces and the forces of the Lebanese Socialist Progressive Party.

Reports said that Phalangists fired at a group of foreign journalists and a British TV photographer was injured.

November 29, 1982

IN LEAGUE WITH THE LEAGUE

TEL AVIV – The Israeli Interior Ministry expressed satisfaction at the establishment of a "League of Settlements" today.

CLOSE COOPERATION

JERUSALEM – Defence Minister Ariel Sharon met with Mustafa Dudeen, head of the Village Leagues, before they both leave for the US on separate tours. Dudeen said afterwards that Sharon believes the Village Leagues can be a partner in autonomy talks.

NEW BROOM

TEL AVIV – The Israeli military spokesman announced that Colonel Shlomo Elia was officially appointed head of the civil administration in the West Bank to succeed Menahem Milson who resigned two months ago. Colonel Elia speaks Arabic and was recently the director of military education in the northern command.

The military spokesman said that Colonel Yigal Karasso who was Milson's aide and then became the acting civil administrator, will remain in his post as an aide and advisor for the hour.

PLAY BANNED

JENIN – The censorship council in Israel banned the play: "Genie and People" which was scheduled to be presented at the cultural centre in Arrabeh today. The police recently summoned the director of the play, Ali Nassar, and informed him of the decision.

HONOURABLE RETREAT

Three weeks after the incident, *Al Quds* published the following note: "Since the meeting of the Village Leagues in Hebron the Israeli media has been publicizing the stand of Subhi Sharif, an *Al Quds* reporter in the area, who attended the meeting.

"*Al Quds* would like to stress that it has nothing to do with the stand of Sharif and asserts that he participated in the meeting on his personal responsibility and in a personal capacity."

November 30, 1982

NO SCHOOL TODAY

Israel Radio reported that the military authorities closed the Women Teachers' Training Centre and the Boys Secondary School in Ramallah after demonstrations in the area.

GETTING MONEY WHERE THE TROOPS ARE

The Israeli Industry and Trade Ministry spokesman stated that Israeli exports to Lebanon totalled US $9.3 million during October. Informed sources said that this year's trade exchange between Israel and Lebanon will reach US $200 million by December. The spokesman also announced that olive oil, which is produced in the West Bank, cannot be exported to Lebanon.

NEW ROAD

The local youth committee for community work paved a road inside Dheisheh camp, near Bethlehem, as part of their programme to improve the community.

An accident in Jaba', Jenin district, draws curious folk. Fortunately no one was hurt.

SHORTS ...

US PROFS CONDEMN EXPULSIONS

WASHINGTON, DC – A group of academics from the US "greatly disturbed with the continuing suppression of academic freedom in the occupied territories," deplored Israeli deportation of their American colleagues from West Bank universities.

About 115 professors of "North American Friends of Palestinian Universities" signed a letter criticizing "the repeated closure of the West Bank universities" and "deportation of faculty members and staff" for their refusal to sign a political statement against the PLO. The statement, they said, bears no relation to their role as educators, and

it is part of a strategy geared at disrupting Palestinian institutions of higher education.

The statement concluded with a "call on those who believe in the principles of academic freedom, to demand this basic right for the Palestinian people also."

EXPELLED MAYORS SPEAK

The two expelled Mayors Muhammad Milhem and Fuad Qawasmeh, of Halhoul and Hebron, have in the past met State Department officials when in the US. The meeting with Secretary of State George Shultz, however, coming as it does after the events of last summer, US President Ronald Reagan's peace proposals, and especially Israeli reactions to it and to its call for a settlement freeze, and Israeli expulsion of educators from the West Bank, gives the meeting between Shultz and the two Palestinian mayors special meaning. The two mayors are known to recognise the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. This could be seen as a sign to Israel to swim with, not against the tide.

The mayors met with Shultz at his invitation for about 45 minutes, and with his aide on the Middle East Nicholas Veliotes earlier in the day to set the agenda. Following the meeting with the secretary of state the mayors turned down questions about the meeting except to say that they had presented to the secretary a line proposed by the PLO.

The two mayors also met recently with three officials of the National Security Council but again no details were available. The mayors arrived from the Middle East and it was reported that they had been in Tunis, the new headquarters of PLO Chairman Yassir Arafat.

LAND RECLAMATION

The Israeli daily *Ma'ariv* claimed that residents of Abu Dis, Azzariyeh, and some Bedouin tribesmen in the vicinity of Jerusalem have carried out land reclamation and built homes on land which was previously confiscated and set aside for a settlement.

The paper also claimed that "hostile parties" helped the residents in planning and financing the construction projects. The paper added that similar activities are underway near Gush Etzion settlement south of Bethlehem.

The deputy military governor of the Bethlehem area was quoted in the paper as saying that the "land takeover" is serious. He also demanded that "action be given the authority to search and put an end" to such occurences.

Ma'ariv also claimed that a similar land reclamation programme was implemented near Talpiot (in West Jerusalem). (Translation: Al Quds, November 21, 1982)

ARAFAT ON THE PRESS

Talking to Italian journalists who attended the Arab Journalists' Conference in Tunis last week, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat accused the US [illegible] being behind the vast harassment campaign against the Palestinian Red Crescent activities in Lebanon: "The Americans are trying to replace the Palestinian Red Crescent with a US agency, the American Relief Services, so as to directly condition and control the Palestinian population."

DUDEEN STILL ACTIVE

TEL AVIV – Reconciliation talks and contacts were held recently between the head of the West Bank Village Leagues, Mustafa Dudeen and Jordan, according to the Israeli media. A radio report said that the talks were conducted on the eve of the meeting which was held recently in Hebron for the Village Leagues.

The radio report noted that Jordan has ceased its attacks against the Village Leagues and that Dudeen himself delivered a pro-Jordan speech at the mentioned meeting. The radio added that a correspondent of *Al Quds* was attending the meeting and that he was among those who spoke before the audience.

British Labour Committee Formed to Support Palestinian Rights

A successful founding conference of the Labour Committee on Palestine (LCP) pledged itself to "building the broadest possible support in the British Labour movement for Palestinian self-determination," at a conference held in London, in early November. A statement adopted by the conference recognised the Palestine Liberation Organisation as "the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

After the conference, newly elected chairman Ted Knight of Norwood Labour Party and now once again leader of (South London Borough of) Lambeth Council, said: "The Labour Committee on Palestine will build on the widened support the Palestinian cause won at the Labour Party conference following the massacres in Beirut which caused revulsion, even amongst former supporters of the Israeli government.

"For the first time both the Trades Union Congress and the Labour Party are committed to campaign for the rights of the Palestinian people and have condemned Israeli aggression."

The new committee will be demanding that Labour Party leader Michael Foot and the rest of the leadership make a clear commitment to pursue the policies adopted at the conference which included the recognition of the PLO, the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied territories, including the West Bank, and the creation of a Palestinian homeland. The new committee will seek to consolidate the campaign through constituency Labour Party and Trade Union branches by organising a series of meetings, conferences, films and exhibitions.

Among those elected to the 12-man steering committee was Ken Livingstone, Labour leader of the Greater London Council.

I HAVE SEEN AND I HAVE HEARD

by Amnon Danker

After two or three days I already knew: something bad is going to happen here. I didn't imagine that what happened in fact would happen, but I was sure that something or other would happen. When inside of 48 hours an entire battalion reaches total depression, everything becomes nerve-wracking and you know that somewhere, sometime this whole business is going to blow up. Perhaps the best sign of depression was that the guys didn't say a word about politics. You know how it goes in the reserves these days: as soon as you arrive the debates begin: Alignment, Likud, Begin, Peres, for the war, against the war, and all that. But this time: not a word. And, believe me, people were so down in the dumps that no one had the strength or the desire to start arguing about these issues. Besides even our most dyed-in-the-wool Likudniks weren't thrilled with what we were doing, and so there was no point filing away people's nerves.

You could say that this depression started on account of the rough conditions: as it happens we've gotten used to a different norm — a kitchen, not bad food, decent living quarters, even houses. But this time — living in tents, field toilets stuck out in the middle of nowhere, bad showers, and combat rations. Canned "meatloaf" all day long. First there's "meatloaf" sliced lengthwise, and then there's "meatloaf" sliced widthwise, one time it's fried, and another time with eggs. All this ruins your mood and motivation right from the start. But the question always remains: what are you doing in these conditions? What are you there for? And this time we ate it, but good.

What will I take back with me from this reserve duty, for a long time coming? The sense of sharp smell that rose from the camp, from the prison-cages, the searchlights, and the roar of the engines of the armoured personnel carriers driving around at night between the prison cages. Four damned hours on the watch-tower: You sit, put down your rifle, and look downward. Seven thousand men in tents, murmuring down there in whispers, in gestures, from time to time someone goes out in his underwear to the toilet, returns, the tent-fly sheet rolled up, some talk is heard. Somebody throws a stone wrapped in a note from one prison-cage to another, and someone catches it there.

The armoured personnel carrier rumbles along, the road between the prison-cages, searchlights colouring the tents in a pale light, human figures moving about around the tents. And the smell, that awful smell, of seven thousand sweaty bodies, of their putrid defecations in the latrines, of the chemicals poured into those pits to prevent diseases. That smell that clings to you at all hours of the day and night, penetrates your nostrils, accompanies you at meal time, in your sleep, and when you wake up, until you get used to it and adapt to it and it becomes part of you, and only when you return from leave and approach the camp, it hits you in your nostrils, only then are you surprised, and a feeling of nausea fills you, until you get used to it again.

Brought

They're called "broughts." Not prisoners, because they're not prisoners as defined by law, not "POWs" because they're not POW s either. Why "broughts?" How should I know? Because they were brought, so that's their name in Israel. Don't these things always start with the language? When the language is not sufficient for all evil deeds, you'd better watch out. Seven thousand "broughts" inside an area the size of a football field. What you would call a weak showing at Bloomfield Stadium (Tel Aviv's largest football ground). And we are watching them from atop earth works built up around the camp, from atop the guard towers. We look at them, and they look at us, and we have no opportunity to test ourselves. To be cruel or merciful, to talk with them or to swear at them.

We are far-removed, guarding in a detached way, without any contact with them. We only know that if something happens, if they break through the fences, if they riot, we must open fire: from the towers, from the look-outs, from around the personnel carriers moving around between the prison-cages.

That's how it is, eight-hours-a-day, every day, every night, and a kind of depression rises from inside the prison-cages and latches on to us, like the smell, and our faces get grey, and our spirit sinks lower and lower, and the weather too starts to make us gloomy — clouds start to cover the sky, a bothersome wind is blowing, freezing our faces in the watchtowers, and the mornings get greyer and greyer.

All of a sudden it seems there's a way out from the gloom. In an enormous burst of energy we start spending entire days as consumers: one long week we spend all our free time going wild in nearby towns, crowding into stores, exchanging bits of information about merchants selling cheap quartz watches, transistor radios, automobile parts, small stereo systems, push-button telephones. Nobody thinks about the searches at the border check-point on the way home. People return from leave with their wallets full, they throw around money in feverish buying, and in the tents, inside the knapsacks thrust under the beds, small treasures are accumulated. But this too passes. Someone comes and says that in Tel Aviv you can buy the same items for less money, and without the tension of the search at the border crossing. People start to calculate the difference, and the madness settles down.

The second week they take some of us down from the guard-towers, and send us to man the checkpoint on the road to Nabatiyeh. Someone recalls that from the road you can sight the camp a bit, and tents are erected at both ends of the road, and in each one six soldiers sent to the checkpoint, to prevent the local people from peeking at the camp. At first this is a great joy — to get out of the camp, to move away from the stinky and troublesome mass of the "broughts," not to hear the screams of pain of those being interrogated. But there too, at the roadblocks, it turns out to be no picnic.

Cars start arriving. Men, women, children, want to pass, to drive to Nabatiyeh, to drive from Nabatiyeh to Sidon. And you know that if you don't let them pass, they will have to make a detour that lengthens the journey by an hour and a half. But there's no two ways about it: those are the orders and that's that. Later on, slowly, we make exceptions — people begin arriving with permits to pass. Papers written in Hebrew: "The bearer is a collaborator with our forces, kindly allow him unlimited movement at all hours of the day and night." We let them pass. Then there are special cases: injured, women about to give birth, being rushed to the hospital at Nabatiyeh. The road-block picks up the telephone to camp to inquire and usually they're told: OK, let them pass. After a few days of this you start not to care. You don't telephone, don't inquire, someone reaches the roadblock, and if he doesn't seem too suspicious — he can pass.

But something always happens that ruins things — after another few days, some women go by the camp. They let them pass. What can you do? What can you do faced with women who come to you and start beseeching and kissing your hands and crying and producing a picture of a young man with a moustache, a suit and tie, and tearfully asking you if you've seen him, maybe, in the camp? They haven't seen him now for three months. Disappeared and gone. At Sidon Military Government they don't know anything. At the Red Cross — nothing. Possibly he's in the camp? She wants to pass by and take a look. Maybe she'll see him. And maybe, maybe you can recognise him. And again the picture is pushed under your nose by a shaky hand. Do you recognise him? He's my husband. Do you recognise him. Have you seen him, over there in the camp? Try to explain to her that you see them from afar and smell them from afar and guard them from afar, and for you they're not human beings with a moustache and a tie and a suit and a wife at home and maybe children, but just a mass of seven thousand small and nosy ants in blue uniforms during the day and white ones at night.

So someone let them approach the fence and there were shouts and the "broughts" approached the fences and the soldiers in the towers and on the ramps cocked their weapons, and from the "broughts" a menacing growling sound emerged and somebody bent down and picked up a rock and threw it at the soldiers, and then there was a volley of rocks, and the soldiers aimed their rifles at the crowd that began getting excited and swarming and moving towards the fence, and someone fired into the air, and a whine filled the air and the women beside the fence raised their voices in weeping, and the "broughts" yelled and then ran to the fence, and began shaking it vigorously.

And the soldiers lost their minds. And then came one of the officers of the Military Police — those poor souls, who, unlike us who sit around the camp, are inside it, and shivering with fear. They know that if something serious happens and we are forced to open massive fire, we'll hit them too. And so, one of their officers stood up straight, aimed his rifle, and started shooting at them, and we were around, outside the fences, standing open-mouthed, and we saw how the bullets went into the flesh, and the injured suddenly stop short and hold the wound and blood flows through their fingers and stains their blue uniforms, and then the injured fall on the ground and a moaning sound rises from their throats, and someone looks dead, another is in agony, and another convulses in pain, and beside them their comrades are kneeling and yelling, and again shots in the air and a loudspeaker booms and orders everyone to enter their tents, and they all obey and leave the injured and the shrieking on the ground, and then all is quiet and only groaning is heard, and the armoured personnel carriers approach the prison-cages to remove the injured and the smell of gun powder mixes for a moment with the aroma of the permanent stench until it dissipates in the air.

After these events the reins are tightened and a severe command is given forbidding us to show good will at the check posts: No one is to pass without a permit. At the roadblock, you must send back a car carrying a woman about to give birth, and an old man groaning in pain clutching his chest and his son crying out begging us to let him go through to the hospital. And you have no choice: you call up the camp, and there they forbid you to let them pass, and you shrug your shoulders and direct them with your hands: turn around and take the long route.

And every day now you hear about a hand grenade being thrown at a roadblock, about a car that raced up and from its window a sub-machine gun spat fire at the checkpoint people, and you begin to be fussy and anxious at any sound, any roar of an approaching car, and you hug your weapon and get worked-up, and slowly become rude to the women who come up to the checkpoint, photographs in hand, and you chase them away, and in your heart there's a fear that one of them will pull a hand grenade out of her bosom. And then you return to camp, enter the tent and lie on your bed and your heart is bitter, and again gloom surrounds you, and you chew it with your stale and bland food, and you lay it on the pillow beside your head when you go to sleep, and it returns and torments you in your gloomy dreams, and it sticks to your flesh when you wash yourself in the mud-floored shower. And now every day drags by slowly, laboriously stretches out to 24 full hours, and slowly drags on, and you try to speed up the time, but time, as if in spite, lingers, drags its feet as if intending to fill you up with smells, feelings, with that heavy depression.

And people move about like silent shadows, their faces sealed by exertion, by sorrow. They're not given to jokes, to those little pranks so typical of reserve service. Not this time. As if a vapour of melancholy had risen from the ground and enveloped all: captive and captor, prisoner and guard.

If someone had come to me one of those last days of the reserves and told me that someone had committed suicide, I wouldn't have been surprised. But nonetheless, the morning of the day of our release, when we packed our belongings, cleaned up the area, and sat waiting for the buses to come and pick us up, when everything was actually behind us, when we were about to take our leave forever from the smell, from the sights, from the heavy feeling — it seemed superfluous, anachronistic, unnecessary. But the shot was fired. And the man lay there, with a big gaping wound in his temple, blood pushing around him in great spurts, and eyes gaping at the ceiling of the tent.

The last day. After everything. And no one asked why. No one got excited and no one made a fuss of it. Perhaps it sounds shocking. But even this did not shake us out of our apathy, our depression. He committed suicide? OK, even though we did not know him well, we knew that he had problems. Family problems, divorce, and so on. It seemed so natural, so fitting in the general picture, that here, in the end, one day, someone will shoot himself, someone will send us home with the vision of his crushed head engraved on our brains, — his empty eyes and his hand extended, the silent body.

You know that usually in such situations, after all the running about and the doctors and medics, that's when people begin to talk: He did it because of this-and-that. No, he did it because of that-and-this. But this time — not a word. A general shrugging of shoulders, acquiescence. A few soft whispers, and the body is loaded onto an ambulance on its way to the hospital at Safad — the first soldier to be discharged from the camp, the first soldier to finish his reserve duty.

And we sit silently, waiting for the buses, and below us the "broughts" are swarming about their crowded quarters and moving lazily by the fences. And I watch them and shudder momentarily, fear grips me, and I feel as if they bear some sort of curse that rises to us with their sharp smells, planting in every one of us some dark seed, that sprouts in the darkness within us, a seed that sprouted too quickly in the guy who committed suicide.

And all the way home from there, after the buses arrive at long last and pick us up, I sit with eyes closed, so as not to see the damned scenery, I sit and curse the POW camp and myself in a kind of ritual to banish evil spirits, I curse and curse until the smells dissipate and the scenery changes and something in my soul is purified, and only the memory of the suicide haunts me for a long time and I think about him and his wrinkled body carrying with it the smell and the depression, to the grave. (Translation: Haaretz, November 5, 1982)

Translated by Henry Lowi

'...intense dissatisfaction...'

Davar published an article by its military correspondent, November 29, on the subhuman conditions in Ansar detention camp in South Lebanon, and predicted that a revolt would break out among prisoners.

The paper indicated that about 5-6,000 Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners are held there with groups of 45 prisoners placed in one tent, which is "too small and not suited to protect them from cold and rain."

Davar pointed out that the prisoners are subjected to psychological and physical pressure and that tension characterises the atmosphere in the camp: "The intense dissatisfaction and complaining of the prisoners turns into revolt and outrage on rainy and cold days, because the detention camp is not provided with heating."

The correspondent said also that she saw a number of sick and old people in the camp, among them an 80-year-old man. She added that the Israeli army was clearing ground nearby to expand the camp in order to alleviate over-crowdedness. She wrote that Israel had not moved these prisoners inside Israel in order that the Geneva Conventions regarding prisoners of war would not be applicable to them.

THREE PLO CONDITIONS

Khalil Wazir (Abu Jihad), deputy general commander of the Palestinian forces, met last week with the Damascus representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross and discussed the possible exchange of eight Israeli prisoners who were captured by a unit of the Palestinian forces in Lebanon a month ago.

The Palestinian leader said they would be released in exchange for the freeing of all Palestinian, Lebanese and foreign prisoners at al-Ansar detention camp and the release of 1000 political prisoners from Israeli jails.

The release of the Ansar detainees was guaranteed by US and international negotiators during meetings to arrange the departure of Palestinian forces from Beirut. Abu Jihad said the Israelis have since reneged on their assurances given then.

The PLO set an unspecified time limit on the offer and Abu Jihad said the PLO will stop all contacts regarding this subject after the limit expires.

Al Fajr learned that PLO leaders met and agreed on a joint list of names of prisoners from all the PLO factions to be released from Israeli jails in return for the eight Israeli prisoners. (Translation: Al Fajr — Hebrew weekly, November 30, 1982)

THE PALESTINIAN DEATH

A Short Story

by Jamal Hamoun

He felt a wild power lifting him above the ground and then lowering him down again. He thought that he was still dreaming . . . a star lit in heaven, smiling to him as if beckoning him to come. He felt again that power — as if magic rays were attracting him to that lighted star. It was the first star to convey a far-sighted gaze. As the days passed, he felt with evening's approach an intimate attachment to the star . . . so he awaited its appearance every night from his stronghold on that high-peaked mountain in the north of Palestine.

Something about the star made him feel closer to his village in northern Palestine. He imagined that it hovered above his village . . . but he doesn't know nor has he ever seen his village. He is able to see it in his imagination as his father described it: its old houses, gardens, citrus groves . . . and he is able to fix the position of their house in the village . . . if it is still there . . . he learned that they always change the topography of land to remove all signs which could be traced to their real owners. The home-sickness for his village never left his heart. There was an innate feeling calling him to go to his village . . . to drink its water, to smell the perfume of its air and the orange citrus. He is still standing in this place, in his place. He will never replace it with any other one in the world. Otherwise he will constantly feel that he is an alien, hated as long as he is away from his village.

As he was about to wake from his dream, he felt a loss of consciousness, as if he were dying. It was not the first time he was feeling the approach of death, but it seems that he, somewhere between reality and dream, felt the approach of death and a group of angels surrounded him on his trip to leave. Gradually he regained consciousness while hearing the sounds of terrible explosions not far away from him.

His comrade Munir, shaking him violently, said: "I thought you were dead."

Samih used to sleep hugging his gun like a lover. He started caressing the rifle, attempting with difficulty to open his eyes and said: "Is it not possible to sleep for a short while?" "We don't have time."

It is the fifth consecutive 24-hour vigil. "You are not alone."

"You came yesterday from Beirut, there also they don't sleep." He added: "You caress your gun with affection. Are you dreaming of your wife?"

Samih answered while sitting up. "Don't remind me of her."

"You will never forget her."

"I'll try . . . Isn't this damned bombardment going to stop?" He looked around him, searching for his comrades. Munir said to him: "Human and the leader are on the other side guarding the road."

Samih asked: "Do you expect that they are going to resume their attack tonight?"

"Yes, this is expected at any time."

"We have the opportunity to escape if we want."

Munir, in a tone of rejection, said: "Do you want to abandon this position for which many of our comrades died?"

"No, I don't mean what I said, but they might force us to surrender."

"While there is still one bullet in my gun — I won't."

Samih replied: "And do you think I will do so? I hope that our sacrifices will not be futile ones."

Munir: "It is not inevitable that people achieve victory in the first battle. We might lose scores of battles before we gain victory. The most important thing is to have faith and confidence that we will be victorious in the end."

Samih said, changing the subject: "They didn't dare to come near this position until now." After a short silence, he said: "At this moment I wish I was not married."

"Is she in Beirut?"

"Yes , she would have been with us here, but she is pregnant. She used to say that she didn't have much to do in Beirut. 'Why shouldn't I be here?' But at the end she was persuaded to work at a social center."

"Is she trained?"

"Of course," he added. "Her delivery is soon and I don't know what she is doing now, I should be beside her."

"Don't worry, the comrades there will look after her."

"She can look after herself. But I wish I could see here again. Do you know, my mother used to tell me I must marry. Now she lives with my father in Dheishieh camp in the West Bank. She wanted me to marry when I was still only 16."

"Why?"

"But who can guarantee?"

"You said that your wife is pregnant?"

"But don't you see that our children die in camps from shelling and air raids?"

"Don't you see them fighting?"

"Yes, in camps of exile."

"I see them fighting."

"Yes, they will live while they resist."

"They don't understand the meaning of hatred."

" . . . but they fear death."

"Because they don't understand the meaning of life. What do they live if they die . . . "

"Others want them to live so that they can get their right to live . . . "

"And so they become men while they are still boys."

"They found themselves carrying weapons . . . because they need to defend their lives . . . they sacrifice their lives because others want to deprive them of their right of life . . . "

Munir said almost ostensibly: "Do you think I am fond of war and want my child to carry weapons after me? . . . if he has any chance to live or see the light . . . I wish for him blissful happiness . . . playing with toys instead of weapons."

Munir said: "But we are obliged to carry weapons . . . to protect our existence. We love life and don't choose death. They force us to die for the sake of life. Even our children understand this fact.

"Do you know? I imagine that those who sacrifice their lives are even more fond of life than others. They sacrifice their lives because they want a better life for everyone.

"For myself, nothing in life can urge me to tighten my grip on it. After I joined the Revolution . . . I felt that life was more beautiful, had a significance and meaning. I got acquainted with a young woman and I didn't expect to so easily fall in love with her. You don't know when this happens . . . You might wonder all of your life hating marriage, but suddenly you change your thinking when you meet the right woman . . . I still want to marry her."

"Why don't you?"

"I am still waiting for the proper conditions."

"When will this happen?"

"I don't know, but when this happens, we will know about it."

"I don't understand you."

"We agreed to remain as we are now, without the established bond of marriage. I consider marriage a sacred bond formulated to consecrate others of our relationship. We didn't feel the necessity to consecrate others of our relationship."

"When will this occur?" He continued as if not hearing the question, for he liked to talk about his fiancee.

"When I met her, she looked at me and said, 'You are a fedai.' 'How do you know?' I asked. 'There is something special I can't explain,' she answered, 'You are of that sort who is ready to sacrifice his life for the sake of others. This is what I see in your eyes.' " Then he said jokingly to his friend: "Do I seem so?"

Samih smiled without answering.

Munir continued: "After this I asked her 'Does this change your mind?' She said: 'No, but this increases my fondness for you.' I feared that she might say that she didn't have a future with me. On the contrary, she wanted to be for me alone. She said, 'I wanted to fall in love with a fedai', until I found you.' I replied, 'You love death.' She said: 'You are death and life. He who believes in you will live.' "

Samih said: "But we might die before we live."

Munir answered: "Our life begins from the point of death."

"Where is she now?"

"She works at the Palestinian Research Center. I must her whenever I go to Beirut."

"So goes life with you?" "Yes, we snatch the moments of happiness. That's what remained for us from life."

"When did you see her last?"

"A few days before the war began. She said to me, 'Don't think more of yourself for my sake. The battle is coming, and I am waiting for you. Don't be late.' 'If I remain alive,' I told her. She answered, 'I will wait for you.' "

Samih asked: "Do you hope to see her again?"

Munir said, pessimistically: "There is no life without hope. We create the hope or we are not able to live."

During the ensuring, all sat at supper. The final battle hadn't yet started. An atmosphere of tension prevailed.

ROLE FULFILLED?

WINDOW ON THE ARAB PRESS

Philip Habib, Presidential Pro-Amadeur Trip to the Middle East

The name of the Palestine Central Council, meeting in Algiers, occupied the headlines of the Palestinian local dailies alongside international and local developments of the Intifadah. The Council's meeting was the first to be held in Algeria since the Palestine People.

On the Arab scene, Yasir Arafat met with PLO Chairman Abdul Hamid Sharaf, where the participants in the Cairo Tripartite Summit of Egypt, Jordan and the PLO met with King Hussein, and children of the martyrs of the Palestinian Liberation Movement, Fatah, departed for refuge in North Yemen.

Meanwhile, Israeli military activities against the Israeli occupation army, with Palestinian army positions against the Palestinian population. There were also reports about the Israeli attempts to impose its conditions on Lebanon. Regarding Israel, there was much news about Shimon Peres, the papers reported about a new settlement which was established near Qalqilya, in the southern part of the West Bank.

Still Crawling

Despite its withdrawal, Israel continues to be reluctant to recognize the PLO representative within the framework of the international peace conference. The Israeli Foreign Minister, Moshe Arens, declared that Israel will not negotiate with the PLO. The Israeli cabinet, in its turn, rejected the US suggestion, stating which is that the only issue to discuss is the PLO's participation. A few days later, Israel unconditionally, even before there is a meeting, rejected the request of Arab recognition.

Yasir Arafat, Hanna Siniora, Sabri Jiryis and Mahmoud Darwish, "Intifadah" and "Intifadah" leaders, met with the Israeli Foreign Minister, Moshe Arens, in Paris. In the meeting, Arens declared that Israel will not negotiate with the PLO. In this statement, it was clear that Ruling Shamir would rule the PLO representative out of the solution. But, with other Ruling Shamir would rule the PLO representative out of the solution. But, with other words, Arens, in fact, refused to negotiate with the Palestinian people, and especially the Palestinian leadership, which is the only representative of the Palestinian people, and which is the only one with which Washington is willing to talk.

What is unpredictable is not this, is that the unreasonable position did not go to Washington, did not go to London, with the purpose of convincing their leaders that the Arabs are compelled to Israel, is not against Israel, rather the committee went to Washington and to Europe, to London, to persuade them that the Arabs are not willing to accept peace, and that they prepared for the Palestinian self-determination and the establishment of a state in the West Bank.

All Arab regimes, headed by the Arabs of the White House, are consulting among the members of Executive Council meeting about PLO issues, they accepted the US decision to boycott the PLO representative, they ask the procedures for all European countries, and especially Germany, to refuse to receive the PLO delegation without showing any discomfort.

When the Arabs understand that they must be free to themselves, and to their cause, only then can the world deal with them honestly and faithfully.

AL FAJR
November 25

If

Progressive and Socialist forces (from November 29 to the day of international solidarity with the Palestinian Arab people, the first year on, On this day in 1947, the General Assembly of the United Nations voted for the establishment of two sovereign states in Palestine, one Arab state, and a Jewish one, linked in economic ways. This decision, known as the "Partition Plan", was voted by (Byelorussia, Ukraine, and Arab countries.

If this decision had been implemented, the following situation would have emerged in 1947, after Palestine acquired independence:

– The Arab inhabitants of the Arab Palestinian state was 725,000 people, with nearly 40,000 Jews.

– The Jewish inhabitants of the Jewish state numbered 538,000, while the Arab inhabitants numbered 498,000.

– Jerusalem, which had special status, housed 105,000 Arabs, and 100,000 Jews.

– The area of the Jewish state (Israel) was 14,000 square kilometers, while the Arab state's area was 12,200 square kilometers. The two states would also have been linked economically.

Communists and other nationalists who were aware of the situation, linked this resolution, despite the injustice of it, for several reasons. The most important of these reasons was that with the existing conditions, this resolution was the only possible way to achieve the independence of Palestine, and to get rid of the colonialists and their destructive policies, – the policy of "divide and rule."

More important than this, was that we saw the "plan for" which was proposed by the common of the people, and the common of the Arab and Jewish nations, as the basis with the future of people. This was the situation, and it continues to be so. The Arab resistance regimes, in direct and indirect collaboration with Imperialism and Zionism, imposed the "Arab solution" on the Palestinian Arab leadership, the position, presented the "common ground" for the Imperialist-Zionist scheme which we stated, from the first, as "illegal", the Jewish state of Israel, and the Arab state of Jordan, and the Palestinians, to consent to turn a "public" face to the service of Imperialist aggression on the Arab people.

It also served to create an unending conflict between the Arab and Israeli, which has been known as a "two heads", which the imperialist governments demands any time they see fit. The rulers of Israel, as a result of the Arab "rejection", "progressive" in accepting 6,700 sq.km. of land, more than the area the UN had decided was to be a Jewish state. After the Jewish state was "cleared," 150,000 Arabs remained, out of a total of 900,000. Some statistics even say that only 125,000 remained.

The facts, as mentioned above, are part of the tragic history of that era. We want to affirm and stress, for the sake of history, and the future, that the solidarity which held the Palestinian Arab people was not caused by the UN resolution of November 29, 1947, but because the resolution was not implemented.

Therefore, and as it is common sense now, we see the same "duty unity" continuing to pursue the same plans in order to prevent the achievement of the principles of that UN resolution, which are independence and self-determination in two states. We also see that, we and all the true and experienced national leadership of the Palestinian Arab people have not abandoned and will never abandon the goals. Our determination stems from our belief in the future, and from our conviction that our nationalism is honest and responsible and cannot be involved in any wrong-doing.

AL ITTIHAD
November 26

Naturally

Those who dodged the Palestinian issue by solving the Middle East crisis ground the political rights of the Palestinians as a nation, the most important of which is self-determination. Therefore, it is natural that the Palestine Central Council rejected this initiative.

It is not enough that the said initiative included certain positive elements such as calling on Israel to withdraw from occupied Arab land and supporting the principle of land for peace, not a homeland instead of a refugee. Points or elements that are more positive were not included in the initiative or at least were not mentioned in details.

Most countries in the world have realized that a peaceful settlement in the Middle East must take into account the Palestinian issue, and were concluded on the initiative. These countries, then, declared flatly that to end the continued conflict in the region and giving the Palestinians their right to self-determination, just like any other nation in the world.

Unfortunately, the recent development and the clear position towards the US president all initiative does not affect or harm the Palestinian struggle. Palestinian rights have their legitimacy which does not depend on whether it is mentioned or ignored in a US or in any other initiative. If the US is really concerned and if it really wants to preserve its interests in the region through achieving genuine peace in the Middle East, then it is time for it to remove its stand on some of these issues.

AL QUDS
November 27

Unity

The results of the Palestine Central Council in its emergency session which was held in Damascus at the end of last week confirms once again the solidarity of the Palestinian National Council.

The central core reaffirms in its statement that any just solution for the problem must be on the basis of providing the Palestinian nation with self-determination.

The central core reaffirms the Palestinian rejection of the Reagan proposal because it ignores their right to self-determination. The Palestinian National Council confirms that Egypt's return to the Arab ranks must be considered on its natural. Even Camp David which opposed Egypt and deprived the Arab nation of its great weight.

These results confirmed the strength of national unity which proved once again the depth of our democratic experience. We are proud of this when we draw comparisons with the Arab capitals which have dictatorial-type regimes.

AL SHAAB
November 28

Israeli Press Visit Town-Arrested Editors

Seventeen Israeli journalists visited the town-arrested editors of *Al Fajr*, Hanna Siniora, *Al Shaab*, Hanna Nasser, and *Al Nahda*, Bashir Barghouthi in Ramallah, November 30. The visit, consisting the same week as exhibitions from the Newspaper Association Association, was arranged so that there is no talk, colloquy in subjects, was dual purpose. Some of the Israeli journalists considered their visit as a "visit to solidarity" and others only as information-gathering trip, a spokesman for the group told *Al Fajr*.

Raul Rubinstein, the West Bank correspondent for *Davar*, told *Al Fajr*: "We don't belong to any group and did not represent any party in our visit. We came to the town to find out what is going on in the Palestinian side. Some of us support the policy and others sought more information but we are not an organized group." Rubinstein said many Israeli do not know about the specific issue.

Asked why the Israeli journalists visited their Palestinian colleagues only after 37 months of house arrest, Rubinstein told *Al Fajr*, "It is a mistake, every Israeli editor has his own opinion which is reflected in the newspaper he works for and he wrote an article a week ago about the Palestinian editors."

Asked whether these Israeli groups which are in sympathy with the Palestinian side were going to protest against the harassment orders on the Palestinian editors, Rubinstein, the spokesman of the group replied, "I do not want to politicize."

On November 29, the Norwegian Journalist Association sent a telegram of protest to the Israeli Journalist Association to take action over the harassment of Palestinian journalists. The 350, like the IFJ, are affiliate of the International Federation of Journalists, cited the house arrest and other harassments of *Al Fajr* English Editor Sam'an Khoury as well as general harassment of Palestinian reporters. Some Palestinian journalists believe the Israeli delegation came in response to the Norwegian protest. Rubinstein said he hadn't heard of the letter and was not active in the IJA.

Allison Hudges, who is also a member of the Arab Journalists' Union, told *Al Fajr* that he said his fellow-editors had complained the effect of the house arrest orders to the Israeli journalists. As well as the effect of the restrictions on the papers the journalists also discussed censorship. Quizzing the Israeli's chairman, Hudges commented, "That they did not discuss our problem for 37 months reveals their interest in the question of freedom of speech for Palestinians. We hope this visit will develop a concrete stand on our issue."

Mansour al-Sayyed commented, "We thought the imposition of town-arrest orders would cause a rapid reaction among Israelis, but we waited 37 months to see. However, this visit is still positive."

The Journalists came from *Ha'aretz*, Yediot Aharonot, *Davar*, *Al Hamishmar*, *Mavir*, *The Jerusalem Post*, *Zu Ha-Derech* and *Al Hahad*.

Peace Now Demonstrates Against West Bank Settlements

Peace Now during the massive demonstration demanding an investigative inquiry into the Sabra and Shatila massacres.

Two thousand Peace Now activists took part in three simultaneous marches in Hebron, at Nablus settlement, near Qalqilya, and in the Shavei Shomron settlement bloc, south of Nablus November 27. They erected "monuments for peace" at the three sites. One demonstrator was injured when settlers threw stones at them.

The three demonstrations were described by Yuli Ramot, spokesman of the movement, as "part of a new offensive against the Begin government's policies of expansive annexation of the west Bank."

Nearly 1,000 of the demonstrators participated in the Hebron demonstration. The police, who had been informed in advance of their protest near the Hebron building, in the heart of Hebron, where several Palestinian families were evicted, and their homes bulldozed a little over a month ago.

A large force of border guards, prevented Peace Now activists from reaching the place. Instead, they demonstrated in front of the military government building, and distributed leaflets in Arabic to Palestinian residents. Before they left, the demonstrators built a monument, a high stone monument, decorated with a copper plate, white wool "Dark Peace and Peace is Avoid Evil and Do Only Good."

The movement spokesman said they were given a good reception by the Palestinian residents.

At the same time another demonstration was taking place at the nearby-settlement of Elkana, near Qalqilya. The 300 demonstrators who participated were harassed by settlers who drove straight them on a parallel road. Jacques Gaillibert, who participated in the demonstration told *Al Fajr* that some of the Israelis threw stones, slightly injuring one of them. Other settlers tried to break up the peace movement, and prevented the protestors from attaching a copper plate to the stones.

The cornerstone of Nablus settlement was laid last week by Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Mikhael Dekel. This new type of settlement will be built by private Israeli initiative and economically viable." Those Yuvs close this site because they wanted to tell the settlers that the government is using them to implement its annexationist policies," Gaillibert explained to *Al Fajr*.

After demonstrating in Nablus, the movement members returned to Ariel, south of Nablus. They were prevented from getting into the settlement because the Nablus area military governor declared the settlement a closed area. A large military force was posted around it.

A third group, who composed of about 500 Peace Now activists, carried their demonstrations near Beit Sharaf south of Nablus. The protest was not disrupted by either settlers or soldiers. Yuli Ramot told *Al Fajr* that Peace Now plans to hold more protests, in order to mobilize public pressure against the settlement policy. "This policy kills the chances for peace in the region," he said.

COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION: PLEDGE "UNACCEPTABLY AMBIGUOUS"

continued from page 1

applicant" but rather lists certain conditions whose non-fulfillment will lead to the cancellation of the permit." CHE quoted the Israeli Government Press Office for the official position. CHE also suggests that the Israelis have verbal assurances given within this year that no permit applications already filed would be passed.

Clare Brandabur, a BZU English teacher, told *Al Fajr*, "Here we want to stay and work we lend over backwards to try to read this (revised) statement as a victory for us. However, it was clear that changes were purely legalistic and we were confronted with the revised statement integrated into the work permit applications."

HIGHER EDUCATION STATEMENT

The CHE statement clarified earlier confusion that there might be divisions within academic circles. Israeli papers published reports after a meeting of CHE in which the CHE vice-chairman, Ephraim Katzir, university administrators and teachers' representatives were at loggerheads. This was despite the fact that a November 29 of Ariel teachers' committee meeting had come out unanimously against signing, after several hours discussion.

After the meeting, teachers said that claims in the Israeli press that the statement had been changed "were in fact false." Teachers' sources said that at the end of the meeting, when it was clear that the majority were against signing, there was a closing of ranks and a unanimous vote.

There is still confusion over what will happen next, however. Israel Radio quoted "senior 'civil administration' sources," November 30, giving the universities 48 hours to give a formal answer to the new permit. Musa Darwish, spokesman for Bethlehem University, said December 1 that they had let no formal contacts from the "civil administration." Other sources said CHE had no plans to contact the authorities.

University administrators are also very aware about Israel's refusal to readmit three foreign faculty across the Jordan bridge this week. "They were refused entry after they declined to sign a copy of the very first statement, which Colonel Yigal Karmon (now deputy acting-head of the 'civil administration') withdrew over one month ago." The first statement detailed the PLO as "a terrorist organization."

On November 28 BZU students, staff and administration established a three-person committee to coordinate response to 'civil administration' moves against them. The committee was set up after a general assembly had discussed the anti-PLO document and came out formally against signing.

NAJAH UNIVERSITY

At Najah University, in Nablus, students have made no formal stand. Newly-elected student president Sami Attili told *Al Fajr* that they would discuss the matter soon and in an interim statement said, "We refuse it because the core of the statement hasn't been changed. It is political blackmail of teachers, and the first step to implementation of (military order) 854."

Since the authorities instituted the anti-PLO document as a basis for a work permit in late August, 26 teachers have been either expelled or excluded from the country, and others barred from teaching. The 'civil administration' has also gone through three heads. The latest, Colonel Shlomo Ella who took office this week, is yet to pronounce on the subject.

Galileans Call MKs Allegations 'Incitement'

Palestinian figures within the so-called Green Line bitterly criticised the claims by Israeli officials that the PLO is funding projects in the Galilee and the Triangle. The allegation, which has been frequently leveled by Israeli politicians, surfaced again November 2 in a *Jerusalem Post* report. Under Israeli application of the British Emergency Defence Regulations of 1945, it is illegal to have contact with or accept funds from so-called illegal organizations, which Israel considers the PLO.

One Palestinian dignitary dismissed the rumour as "continuation of the old policy of national discrimination aiming at maintaining the general tendency of the Israeli Interior Ministry not to offer sufficient budgets to Arab local councils."

The Jerusalem Post **claimed, in an article entitled "PLO Behind Funds to Arab Villages," that "emissaries from abroad and local residents recently visited Arab villages in the North and offered scholarships and contributions to social activities in cultural clubs."**

Emile Tuma, the editor-in-chief of *Al Jadid* and a former Communist Party MK who fought hard for adequate funding for Arab villages, denied that the Arab students or clubs in the North received such funds. "There are about 1000 Arab students who study in Israeli universities who receive scholarships from the Washington-based Jerusalem Scholarship Fund. Each student receives US $750 — 1000," he said. He denied that the JSF is PLO-backed.

The list of Arab projects which get foreign aid is minute — especially when compared with the multi-million dollar aid sent to Israel by the US government and private Jewish fund-raisers. Galilee experts list total aid to Arab villages as an orchard project in Haifa and another one in Kabul; IS20,000 to Deir al-Asad from a religious institute in Sweden for development for projects in the village; assistance to build a secondary school in Iblin, near Shafa 'Amr; and US $5000 for social projects in Um al-Fahm.

Emile Tuma told *Al Fajr* "this is the tenth time the Israeli authorities have circulated this kind of incitement against the Palestinians of 1948. All funds which the Palestinians received are officially registered and not secret. It is an old campaign of MK Amnon Linn who is always accusing Palestinian Arabs of receiving PLO money."

Asked whether it is true that the Arab villages received US $1,000,000 during this summer's invasion of Lebanon, Tuma said, "I wish that this had happened — US $1,000,000 would have been a lot."

Ramez Jaraysi, deputy mayor of Nazareth, told *Al Fajr* that Nazareth was similarly attacked 14 months ago by Israel Koenig, the district commissioner for the northern district. He claimed that money from friends of Nazareth abroad for a secondary school came from the PLO, said Jaraysi. "Tawfiq Zayyad and I were interrogated by the police but we proved that the source of money was legal."

Jaraysi explained that the campaign is directly connected to the recent increase in protests of Arab village councils against discriminatory treatment by the Israeli government. Last week the Arab village council heads demanded the government cover their financial deficits and threatened to resort to strikes if their demand was not met.

"This story about funds," Jarayssi said, "is a continuation of the statement of (Israeli Prime Minister's Advisor for Arab Affairs, Ben Yamin) Gur-Arye last week who said, 'There is no place for the regional Arab committee in our policy.' "

At Al Najah University
National Unity Bloc Regains Senate

The National Unity Bloc won all nine seats of Al Najah's student council and a majority on the 56-seat General Assembly after elections, November 29. The only other group running in the poll was the "Independent Islamic Bloc." Student observers told *Al Fajr* that the success of the National Unity Bloc is of great political significance coming as it does after the success of similar blocs in the Hebron Institute and the Gaza Islamic University.

Adnan Damiri, the new chairman of the student council, said the success of the Unity Bloc was mainly due to their efficient running of student affairs for the last 10 months. On January 9, 1982, the university administration froze the last student council after clashes on campus. That council was run by the Islamic bloc. Adnan Damiri said that the United Students' Committee which served on an *ad hoc* basis for the past year formally organised student scholarships as well as social and cultural activities. He attributes their current success to that past record.

Samir Attili, vice-president of the student council, told *Al Fajr*, "I am satisfied with the results of the election, because I believe that the National Unity Bloc will create a democratic atmosphere in the university and carry on its national responsibilities." Tawhid Zorba, a member of the student council, also commented on the success of the Unity Bloc. "The results prove that the national unity was and still is an urgent demand of the students." Muhammad A'weis, public relations secretary, outlined the Bloc's future programme: "The council will at first study its constitution drawn up by the university administration during the ten-month freeze; to initiate certain activities such as Palestine Week; arrange scientific and cultural lectures and plan celebrations for future national occasions. We will also examine the possibilities for gathering stable financial sources to increase the quantity and the quality of the scholarships offered to the students."

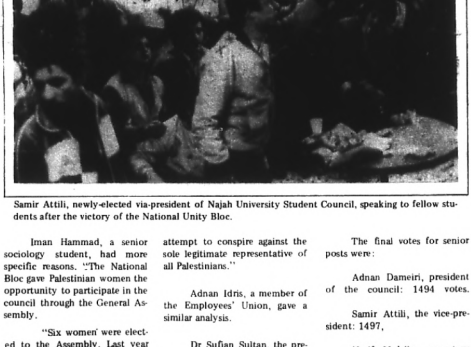
The defeated head of the Islamic Bloc, Amjad Eleiwi, said his opponents' propaganda campaign hurt the reputation of the Islamic Bloc. He also claimed 800 Islamic students did not vote "because of the lack of transportation during the strike."

Students didn't seem to hear out the defeated candidate's claim, however. On the day the results were announced there were parties all over the campus. Groups of students held impromptu *dabkeh* dances and hundreds of students joined in singing patriotic songs.

Ayshe Mahmoud, an arts freshman, told *Al Fajr* that most freshman students supported the National Bloc "because it represents the principles of national unity."

Amin Arousan, a senior in the business department, said that the United Students' Committee, the nucleus of the student council, "succeeded in all political and union tasks and therefore gained a lot of students' support."

Sophomore Suzan Hafi, told *Al Fajr*, "It is our bloc. We all support it. National unity in the universities of the West Bank is a first step towards a comprehensive unity of all our people within the framework of the PLO."



Samir Attili, newly-elected via-president of Najah University Student Council, speaking to fellow students after the victory of the National Unity Bloc.

Iman Hammad, a senior sociology student, had more specific reasons. "The National Bloc gave Palestinian women the opportunity to participate in the council through the General Assembly.

"Six women were elected to the Assembly. Last year there was no General Assembly and no elected women representatives at all.

Faculty also seem to have got caught up in election fever. Mu'in Hafez, a sports teacher told *Al Fajr*, "The results in Najah University are a practical answer to the so-called Palestinian peace document.(A document calling for recognition of Israel drawn up by some pro-Jordanian figures but frozen after strong local and external oppostion.) The students who represent the political line of the PLO succeeded. This means a real defeat for all those who attempt to conspire against the sole legitimate representative of all Palestinians."

Adnan Idris, a member of the Employees' Union, gave a similar analysis.

Dr Sufian Sultan, the president of the Employees' Union, told *Al Fajr* that the National Unity Bloc succeeded because there is cooperation among them and they represent a clear political line. The previous student council "committed grave mistakes," he said.

When the results were announced to the hundreds of students who remained on campus at 8:30 pm, the election supervisors said 71 percent of the university's 3300 students voted, with the Unity Bloc getting 65 percent of the total vote. Thirty six out of 56 on the new General Assembly represent the National Unity Students' Bloc.

The final votes for senior posts were:

Adnan Dameiri, president of the council: 1494 votes.

Samir Attili, the vice-president: 1497,

Nasif Mu'allen, secretary of the council: 1434,

Muhammad Shuqeir, treasurer: 1464,

Khader Hassan, student activities coordinator: 1454,

Muhammad A'weis: 1451,

Muhammad Ghanem, on-campus community-work coordinator: 1448,

Samir Kheito, off-campus community-work coordinator: 1453,

Rashid Zorba: 1463.

IN GALILEE

Lebanon War Forces Druse To Rethink Draft

by Daoud Kuttab

When the eight story building housing the Israeli military government in Tyre collapsed November 11, more than a building was destroyed. The loyalty of the local Druse community to the state of Israel and its institutions, specifically the army, has deteriorated significantly. The Israeli daily *Davar*, which ran a long feature article about the subject in its Friday edition called the community "A Time Bomb Inside the State of Israel."

Among the 75 Israeli soldiers killed in the Tyre blast, 15 were Druse. Only one Druse in the Israeli army was killed during the Lebanon war until the blast.

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Al Ittihad, the Israeli Communist Arabic bi-weekly reported in its November 26 issue that "the body of Nadim Muhammad Ambar from Rama, who was killed in the Tyre blast, was pulled out from under the rubble with his hands handcuffed. It is believed that he was arrested at the time of the blast. Observers connect this matter with the increase in the rejection of military conscription among Arab youths from the Druse community."

Al Ittihad continued that tens of Druse youths are jailed because of their refusal to serve in the Israeli army.

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The psychological and emotional effect of the blast on the close Druse community is much more powerful than on the Jewish community. Cohesiveness of the Arab Druse community living in Israel is very strong because of the refusal of the community to marry outside the sect.

Activists in the Druse community are hoping to be able to take advantage of the indignation in the Druse community towards Israel caused by the war, to gain from it political results. Their most important aim is to get the abolishment of mandatory conscription of youth.

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According to *Al Ittihad's* November 23 issue, "The Druse Initiative Committee issued a leaflet following the death of 10 Druse in the Tyre blast. The leaflet called on the whole Druse community to join the movement against the war and to step up opposition to the draft." The leaflet also stated "We don't have any interest in pursuing the policy of war and occupation."

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Salman Natour, an active member of the DIC, writer and editor for *Al Jadid* magazine, told *Al Fajr* that the DIC leaflet had a tremendous impact on the community. "We had to print thousands of copies, and our young people distributing it said that it was demanded more than any previous leaflet."

Many Palestinian Druse feel that the Druse community started thinking things over much earlier. "Ever since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the Israeli army's partnership with the Phalangists against nationalist Druse many members of the community have expressed indignation against Israel," said Faraj Khneifes, a prominent leader of the Druse Initiative Committee when it was founded in 1972. Khneifes was released from jail last year after serving a long jail sentence and had been confined under house arrest orders until September 1. "The anger of Palestinian Druse was based on sectarian rather than national feelings," explains Khneifes. Faraj Khneifes who is the son of a prominent pro-government Druse leader from Shafa 'Amr said that the reaction of the community has spread to all sectors. "Even my mother who supported Israel after her brothers were killed by fellow Arabs during the 1936-39 revolt is cursing the Israeli government now and blaming them for the killing of young people," testified Faraj.

The most dramatic outburst of anger towards the Israel government and its present leaders came during a funeral service for one of the victims of the Tyre blast. The young man's father from Beit Jan stood up in the presence of Arieh Tisan, general superintendent of police in Israel and scoffed at those saying his son was killed in his defence of the homeland. "My son was killed by Sharon and Begin, and there was no reason for the Israeli army to have ever invaded Lebanon," he cried.

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Activists in the Druse community told *Al Fajr* that efforts are being made to invigorate the Druse Initiative Committee's efforts to find an end to the mandatory conscription. "We must remove this big hurdle from our path," explains Faraj Khneifes. Members of the Druse community explain that the mandatory conscription has played an important role in keeping the community's educational level very low.

"The young person knows that after high school he has to serve three years in the army. After that he has to work to support his family. Some youths even give up high school noting that there is no use for that," explains Suleiman Salameh from Shafa 'Amr. Salameh notes that at the end of the three years the young men are attracted to working in the army as a career. "The young men find themselves without any training and are lured to the high paying army jobs. IS150,000 is given as a grant for anyone willing to sign up for three or five years," explains Salameh. "If the draft is lifted, our young people would have a choice and most would not join the army."

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The Druse community which numbers about 50,000, is witnessing a real awakening. Starting from the events of the Golan when the Israeli army blockaded the four villages for two months, barring essential foods and medicines, and continuing with the continuous battles in Lebanon between the Israeli supported Phalangists and Jumblatt's Druse militias, and ending with the Tyre blast killing 15 Druse soldiers, the characterisation by the Israeli newspaper of the community as a time bomb for Israel has become an undeniable truth.

Banned Play Queries Censor

The High Court in Jerusalem issued an order *nisi* for 45 days, November 30, against the Council for Censorship of Films and Theatre, demanding an explanation for the banning of a play written by a Palestinian from the Galilee. During the hearing, the prosecutor claimed that the play is "extremist" and "inciting."

Rateb Awawde, from Kufr Kanna, near Nazareth, who is the director of the play told *Al Fajr* he was "surprised" at the ban. The play is about land expropriation and discrimination against Palestinians in Israel, and had been performed in several villages before it was banned.

The play, entitled *Mashahed*, Arabic for "scenes," takes the form of scenes from the life of the Palestinians in Israel.

Rateb Awawde, a theatre teaching college graduate has written and directed several plays for the last seven years, dealing with the conditions of the Palestinians.

Nadi Show Closes Early

A three-day exhibition of press coverage of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon at the Nadi Muwathafin (Employees' Club) in Jerusalem ended

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The club's press display consisted of photographs, articles and cartoons in Arabic and foreign languages from papers all over the world. Special

sections dealt with various aspects of the invasion, destruction of civilian quarters and camps, the wounded and the Sabra and Shatila massacre. Shirts, posters, tapes of progressive Arab music and photographic reproductions were sold.

The three-day event closed with a showing of two video films about the massacres in the south Beirut refugee camps. Three hundred people packed the club for the film show.

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IN THE GALILEE

Two Flags Bring Police

Four residents from Arrabeh, Batouf district in Galilee — Nader Ibrahim Shamshoum, Aref Diab Khalil Diab Hussein, Qassem Ayadi and Usama Lahwani — were arrested in Arrabeh November 27. The Israeli police reportedly claimed that two Palestinian flags were hoisted in the village near Marah and the pool of Arrabeh. Slogans in support of the PLO were also written on the walls, such as "The Armed Palestinian Revolution Lives On."

Arrabeh residents consider that this "provocative attack" by police is in preparation for the expropriation of 14,500 dunums of their land.

On November 29 the magistrate court in Acre extended the detention of Shamshoum, Diab and Ayadi another day. The prosecutor claimed that he had secret information about the detainees which their lawyer, Hashem Dalasheh, refuted. The judge told police to produce sufficient evidence condemning the accused or he would release them.

On the same date, the magistrate court extended the detention of Yasar Hassan Salman and Rabah Zbeidat from Sakhnin in the Galilee, for seven days on charges of stoning Israeli vehicles November 27. (Excerpted: Al Ittihad, November 30)

'STATE LAND' TO SETTLERS

The Israeli Lands Administration decided November 23, to give land in the Galilee and Triangle it claims as "state land" to Jewish settlers. The decision was taken to encourage settlers to migrate to these areas, *Ha'aretz* reported the next day.

Ha'aretz added that the decision was intended to "encourage Jewish settlement within the framework of the Judaization of the Galilee plan." It announced that a free land scheme would be extended to the Wadi Ara area, in the Triangle.

The paper said that there is a plan to transform the scores of new outlook settlements *(mitzpim)* which have been set up in the last few years in the Galilee and Wadi Ara into full settlements. In these outposts, the paper went on, there are between 10 and 20 families. The plan requires an increase in this number to 100 families per settlement. New settlers will get free land.

COMMENTARY

Embarrassment Spurred Israeli Journalists

by Awad Abdel Fattah

Israeli journalists — liberals and rightists alike — have been completely passive towards the suppression of free press in the occupied territories for the 15 years of occupation. The escalation of this suppression in the last few years has culminated in placing three editors and several journalists of Palestinian newspapers under town restriction, increasingly strict censorship and frequent closures. All this apparently has not been enough to spur Israeli journalists, who claim they believe in free expression, to drop passivity and rise against this policy.

There could be several different reasons for such passivity and indifference towards other newspapers which are subjected to constant harassment. There are journalists who accept the official policy of the Israeli authorities. They approve of the seige of the Palestinian press. One editor, from the rightist *Yediot Aharonot*, Moshe Varda, was clear and frank when he was asked recently by *Al Fajr* to define his attitude on the discriminatory policy towards Palestinian newspapers. There are others who are indifferent. They are not interested in following what is happening to the Palestinian press, as long as they are doing well.

Irrespective of the motives, both groups meet at one point — in silence, and silence, whether it is intended or not, is tacit agreement.

It seems that Israeli journalists can revolt only when they themselves become victim to this policy. In April 1982 they demonstrated against a defence ministry order barring them from entering Yamit settlement to report on its dismantlement.

The Israeli journalists have not gone through the same experiences as the Palestinian journalist. They have not experienced the psychological frustration which is undergone when opinion and ideas become constant prey for the censors scissors. Maybe they don't know that, for us, the mind of the censor operates as mechanically, devoid of any human considerations, as the scissors. The censor has been carefully chosen for this job, to be a mere tool for implementing the policy which aims at separating the Palestinian from his human essence.

The Palestinian journalist is not only forced to bear the physical torture of the occupation, such as imprisonment, town arrest, deprivation of his source of livelihood, etc. but is also banned from talking about these harassments and practices to his people, to whom he is committed and bound. His ideas have to remain imprisoned in his mind and his feelings have to be caged in his heart.

The Israeli journalists rule out even the possibility of being put in the same situation. They would not agree, as one of them said, "to let the censor read our political articles and opinions." But do they have to be involved in the same difficult situation which the Palestinian press is subject to, in order to be in touch with the reality in the area under their government's control?

I would say that the latest and unprecedented move of Israeli journalists to visit the three Palestinian editors under town arrest, is more a product of the Norwegian journalists' union initiative who sent their Israeli colleagues a letter urging action, rather than purely motivated initiative of the Israeli journalists. One of the visiting journalists' delegation hit the nail on the head when she wrote in *Al Hamishmar* "their (Palestinian journalists') only hope is public opinion or George Shultz."

I don't intend to be cynical of this very late visit. On the contrary, it is an encouraging step and a good start. But it is a shame that only when they are subjected to pressure do Israeli journalists realize their duty. Did their initiative come out of embarrassment or out of a belief and real concern about the freedom of press in the occupied territories?

One fact should be stressed: the principle of free expression cannot be selectively applied. It is one and indivisible and wherever it is violated it should be defended, regardless of race, nationality and religion. Israeli journalists should realize that infringement of the Palestinian press is an infringement on them. They insult themselves if they take a spectator's stand.

In any event, the awakening of the Israeli journalists, although very late, can be a good step. But they should not stop here. Real action and practical steps are needed from these journalists. They should act to exercise their influence among the Israeli public to pressure the Israeli government to end the suppression of the right of free expression and to remove the relentless political censorship of Palestinian newspapers.

They should ask the Israeli authorities "Why do you discriminate against the Palestinian press?" "Why do you prevent the Palestinian newspapers from publishing articles which we can run?" "Why do you continue to keep the three editors restricted?"

The next days or months will prove whether the latest move of Israeli journalists is based on principled opposition to the restriction of the press or whether it is just an attempt to sidestep the question their international colleagues are putting to them.

NORWEGIAN PRESS PROTEST AL FAJR HARASSMENT

Following several incidents of harassment towards *Al Fajr* English weekly staff-members, which was reported also in the Scandinavian newspapers, the Norwegian Journalist Association issued a statement November 19 calling on their colleagues in Israel to intervene.

Both the Israeli and the Norwegian journalist unions are members of the International Federation of Journalists, which declares itself open to "national trade unions of professional journalists which are dedicated to the freedom of the press and to defending and advancing the rights of jounalists."

The Federation defines freedom of the press as "freedom in the collection of information, freedom of opinion and comment, freedom from interference by public authority (in accordance with the United Nations and European Declarations of Human Rights) including the freedom to criticise and oppose governments and political bodies and freedom in the dissemination of news by all forms of media."

The approach from the Norwegian journalists was mainly concerning the detention of *Al Fajr* editor Samaan Khoury. That case ended with a one-year suspended sentence — of which 17 days were already served in confinement — for being in possession of two magazines which the Israeli public are free to go and read in libraries at the Hebrew Universtiy.

A Norwegian journalist, after looking into the matter, told *Al Fajr*: "According to the statutes of the International Federation of Journalists of which the Israeli journalists are members, it seems to me that the National Federation of Israeli Journalists should make contact with Khoury to find out whether there is any action they should take in that special case.

"There are however, several other issues to be looked at. Especially it seems that the International Federation has a claim according to its statutes that its Israeli members take action against the shameful censonship that has killed the free press."

The Norwegian journalist emphasized what he feels is Israeli responsibility for the suppression of press freedom: "Originally I believed that the Israeli government only censored newspapers and other written materials in the occupied areas. In strict legal terms, it might then not have concerned my Israeli colleagues. However, I have learned that the Israeli government does not regard Jerusalem as occupied territory, so in that sense, the Israeli journalists for years have tolerated the execution of a most harmful censorship in Israel. I cannot give any further comment as to how this corresponds with their status as members of the International Federation and its claim to being dedicated to the freedom of the press and defending and advancing the rights of journalists."

The approach from the Norwegian Journalist Association, sent to the Israeli Journalists Association, November 19, reads:

From several sources Norsk Journalistlag has been informed about recent difficulties experienced by the editorial staff of the English language weekly newspaper Al Fajr *in Jerusalem. We have been informed about arrests that seem to be quite arbitrary and about travel restrictions that seem to lack a sufficient reasonable explanation.*

Members of our union, one following the development on the spot in Jerusalem, and of others kept informed through other sources, have expressed their grave concern about the situation. They have expressed the opinion that the different measures taken towards Al Fajr *is an attempt by Israeli authorities to silence in an unfair way a troublesome opposition voice.*

We are particularly concerned by the fact that the editor of Al Fajr, *Samaan Khoury has been detained in solitary confinement without being allowed a visit by his lawyer and thatcourt hearings have beenheld in closed-door session without permission for the lawyer to speak to the client or see the file which the prosecution based its detention order on.*

Norsk Journalistlag expresses the hope that you would be able to help us with information in this matter and also that you could intervene in the case as far as it relates to exercise of the journalistic profession and the right of press freedom.

With fraternal regards
NORSK JOURNALISTLAG
Trygve Moe,
President

LOCAL AMNESTY CHAPTER GOES TO BAT FOR AL FAJR

The following letter was forwarded to Al Fajr *this week*

Menachem Begin, Prime Minister
Jerusalem, Israel

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

Because Amnesty International opposes imprisonment of those who speak out of conviction or conscience, and neither engage in nor advocate violence, we deplore and oppose the arrest without charges of Samaan Khoury, editor of the Jerusalem-based newspaper, *Al Fajr*.

It has been reported that in the past year, virtually every staff member of *Al Fajr*, as well as other Palestinian journalists, have been arrested and prevented from obtaining legal counsel.

Efforts to repress thought and freedom to speak out are bound not only to fail but to prove counterproductive to the overall objective of bringing peace to the Middle East. The history of the Jewish people themselves establishes this irrefutably.

In these times of special pressures on Israel by the media worldwide, Israel suffers in the eyes of the world for its perceived violation of the basic human rights guaranteed to all people by international law, United Nations charter, and covenants agreed to by Israel.

Group 89
Amnesty International
Rochester, New York

This Week at the Censor

Number of original articles sent to censor	37
Number of articles totally censored out	4
Number of articles mutilated beyond use	1
Number of articles returned	1
Number of articles partially censored but used	4
Number of articles passed	27

— Paid Advertisement —

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